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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
13 MARCH 2025

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13_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. The Thalangara Thopi: The End of a Legacy

थालंगरा टोपी: एक धरोहर का अंत

2. Global coordination can trump efforts to undercut climate predictions

वैश्विक समन्वय जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों को कमजोर करने के प्रयासों को मात दे सकता है

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Annual ritual



'Kuthira Kali' is being held as part of the Chinakkathoor Pooram at Palappuram in Kerala's Palakkad district on Wednesday. Eight horse replicas will be paraded, with four on the eastern side and four on the western side of the Chinakkathoor Bhagavathy temple, as part of the annual festival. K.K. MUSTAFAH

GS Paper I: A&C

Kuthirakali

- **Kuthirakali** is a traditional **folk dance** form performed mainly in **Kerala, India**.
- It is deeply rooted in **temple festivals** and **ritualistic art forms**, showcasing a blend of music, rhythm, and vibrant costumes.

Origin and Significance

- The name "**Kuthirakali**" is derived from two words:
 - **Kuthira** – meaning **horse**
 - **Kali** – meaning **play or dance**
- It represents a **symbolic depiction of horses** through dancers who wear costumes resembling a horse's body.



- This dance is performed as an offering to deities during **annual temple festivals (Utsavams)**.

Performance and Style

- The performers **tie a wooden or cloth frame** around their waists, shaped like a horse.
- They dance energetically to the rhythm of **traditional percussion instruments** like:
 - **Chenda**
 - **Elathalam**
 - **Thakil**
- The dance is highly energetic and includes **fast-paced steps, jumps, and circular movements**.
- The themes are often based on **mythological stories, folk legends, or deities**.

Where is Kuthirakali Performed?

- It is mainly performed in **central and southern parts of Kerala**, particularly in districts like:
 - **Pathanamthitta**
 - **Alappuzha**
 - **Kollam**
 - **Kottayam**
- It is associated with **Bhagavathi temples**, where devotees perform it as a **ritualistic art**.

Comparison with Other Similar Art Forms

- **Kuthirakali** is often compared with:
 - **Poikkal Kuthirai Aattam** of **Tamil Nadu**, which also involves dancers wearing horse-shaped structures.
 - **Dummy Horse Dance** seen in **Rajasthan and Odisha**.



As the sole artisan winds up his craft, it's time for the last hat-tip to a famed cap

GS Paper I: A&C

C.P. Sajit
KASARAGOD

The Thalangara Thopi, a traditional handmade prayer cap revered by the Muslim community and recognised as a heritage symbol, is on the brink of becoming a relic of history. The last remaining artisan engaged in its craft has ceased production, marking the end of a 200-year-old legacy.

The Thalangara cap was an essential part of Muslim attire, especially during the holy month of Ramzan. However, the demand has tapered off and Abdul Raheem, a fourth generation capmaker and the last custodian of this craftsman-



Thalangara Thopi, a traditional handmade prayer cap, is on the brink of becoming part of history. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ship, halted production six months ago.

Mr. Raheem says the art of making the cap is believed to have been taught by the people who came from Lakshadweep. Its mention can also be found in the 14th century writings

of Moroccan traveller Ibn Battuta.

Mr. Raheem inherited the craft from his father, Abubakar Musliyar, who made the cap globally famous over his 60-year career, selling it in India's major cities and the Gulf.

Despite the State government recognising the cap as a heritage item, Mr. Raheem cites a lack of institutional support to promote the tradition.

Traditionally made from pure cotton with minimal machine use, each cap requires at least 20 days of meticulous craftsmanship. At its peak, the industry supported 40 families, but Mr. Raheem's was the last to remain in the trade before production stopped.

"The Thalangara cap's decline signals not just the loss of a craft but the fading of a cultural identity. Without urgent intervention, this rich legacy may soon become a mere memory," says Mr. Raheem.

The Thalangara Thopi: The End of a Legacy

थालंगरा टोपी: एक धरोहर का अंत

The Thalangara Thopi, a traditional handmade prayer cap revered by the Muslim community and recognised as a heritage symbol, is on the brink of becoming a relic of history.

थालंगरा टोपी, एक पारंपरिक हस्तनिर्मित प्रार्थना टोपी जिसे मुस्लिम समुदाय द्वारा पूजा जाता है और धरोहर प्रतीक के रूप में पहचाना जाता है, इतिहास की एक वस्तु बनने के कगार पर है।

- The last remaining artisan engaged in its craft has ceased production, marking the end of a **200-year-old legacy**.
इस कारीगरी में लगे आखिरी शिल्पकार ने उत्पादन बंद कर दिया है, जो एक **200 साल पुरानी धरोहर** के अंत को दर्शाता है।
- The Thalangara cap was an essential part of **Muslim attire**, especially during the **holy month of Ramzan**.
थालंगरा टोपी **मुस्लिम परिधान** का एक आवश्यक हिस्सा थी, विशेष रूप से पवित्र माह रमजान के दौरान।
- However, the demand has tapered off and **Abdul Raheem**, a **fourth generation capmaker** and the last custodian of this craftsmanship, halted production **six months ago**.
हालाँकि, मांग कम हो गई है और **अब्दुल रहीम**, एक **चौथी पीढ़ी के टोपी बनाने वाले** और इस कारीगरी के आखिरी संरक्षक ने **छह महीने पहले** उत्पादन रोक दिया।
- Mr. Raheem says the art of making the cap is believed to have been taught by the people who came from **Lakshadweep**.



श्री रहीम कहते हैं कि टोपी बनाने की कला को लक्षद्वीप से आए लोगों द्वारा सिखाया गया माना जाता है।

- Its mention can also be found in the **14th century writings** of **Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta**.

इसका उल्लेख **14वीं शताब्दी** के **मोरक्को यात्रा लेखक इब्न बटूटा** की लेखनी में भी पाया जा सकता है।

- Mr. Raheem inherited the craft from his **father, Abubakar Musliyar**, who made the cap globally famous over his **60-year career**, selling it in India's major cities and the Gulf.

श्री रहीम ने यह कारीगरी अपने पिता, **अबूबकर मुसलियार** से प्राप्त की, जिन्होंने अपनी **60 साल की कड़ी मेहनत** में टोपी को विश्वभर में प्रसिद्ध किया, इसे भारत के प्रमुख शहरों और खाड़ी देशों में बेचा।

- Despite the **State government recognising the cap as a heritage item**, Mr. Raheem cites a lack of **institutional support** to promote the tradition.

हालाँकि, **राज्य सरकार ने टोपी को एक धरोहर वस्तु के रूप में पहचाना है**, श्री रहीम ने इस परंपरा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए **संस्थागत समर्थन की कमी** को बताया।

- Traditionally made from **pure cotton** with minimal machine use, each cap requires at least **20 days** of meticulous craftsmanship.

पारंपरिक रूप से **खालिस सूती** से बनाई जाती है और मशीन का न्यूनतम उपयोग होता है, प्रत्येक टोपी को बनाने में कम से कम **20 दिन** का बारीकी से किया गया शिल्प कौशल लगता है।

- At its peak, the industry supported **40 families**, but Mr. Raheem's was the last to remain in the trade before production stopped.

अपने शिखर पर, यह उद्योग **40 परिवारों** का समर्थन करता था, लेकिन श्री रहीम का परिवार व्यापार में रहने वाला आखिरी था, इससे पहले कि उत्पादन बंद हो गया।

- "The Thalangara cap's decline signals not just the loss of a craft but the **fading of a cultural identity**. Without urgent intervention, this rich legacy may soon become a mere memory," says Mr. Raheem.

"थालंगारा टोपी का पतन केवल एक कारीगरी के नुकसान का संकेत नहीं है, बल्कि यह एक **सांस्कृतिक पहचान** के फीके पड़ने का संकेत भी है। बिना तात्कालिक हस्तक्षेप के, यह समृद्ध धरोहर जल्द ही केवल एक **स्मृति** बन सकती है," श्री रहीम कहते हैं।

Ibn Battuta's 14th Century Writings

- Ibn Battuta, born on **February 24, 1304**, in **Tangier, Morocco**, was a renowned Muslim traveler and scholar.
- His extensive journeys, covering approximately **75,000 miles (120,000 km)**, are chronicled in his famous travelogue, the **Rihlah (Travels)**.
- Ibn Battuta embarked on his travels at the age of 21, initially setting out on a pilgrimage to Mecca.
- His adventures spanned nearly three decades, during which he visited regions across **Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and China**.



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- His writings provide invaluable insights into the cultures, societies, and landscapes of the 14th-century world.

Ibn Battuta's Travels in India

- In **1333**, Ibn Battuta arrived in India during the reign of **Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq**. The Sultan appointed him as a **judge (qadi)** in Delhi, a position he held for several years.
- **During his time in India, Ibn Battuta documented his experiences and observations of various regions, including:**
- **Delhi:** Serving in the Sultan's court, he provided detailed accounts of the city's architecture, administrative systems, and social customs.
- **Maharashtra (Daulatabad):** He described the **Fortress of Daulatabad** as one of the finest in India, noting its strategic significance and architectural grandeur.
- **Kerala (Kozhikode):** Ibn Battuta praised Kozhikode as a prominent port city, highlighting its bustling trade and cultural diversity.
- **Karnataka (Honnavar and Mangalore):** He expressed admiration for the natural beauty and tranquility of these coastal towns, noting their lush landscapes and vibrant communities.
- **Uttar Pradesh (Aligarh and Kannauj):** His writings shed light on the historical and cultural importance of these cities during the 14th century.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- NOAA is a scientific agency within the **United States Department of Commerce**, focusing on the conditions of the **oceans, major waterways, and the atmosphere**. NOAA संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के वाणिज्य विभाग के अंतर्गत एक वैज्ञानिक एजेंसी है, जो महासागरों, प्रमुख जलमार्गों और वायुमंडल की स्थितियों पर केंद्रित है।

Key Responsibilities / प्रमुख जिम्मेदारियाँ:

- **Weather Forecasting / मौसम पूर्वानुमान:** NOAA provides daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to protect life and property. NOAA दैनिक मौसम पूर्वानुमान, गंभीर तूफान चेतावनियाँ और जलवायु निगरानी प्रदान करता है ताकि जीवन और संपत्ति की रक्षा हो सके।

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- **Ocean Exploration / महासागर अन्वेषण:** The agency explores and conducts research on marine ecosystems and resources. एजेंसी समुद्री पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों और संसाधनों पर अनुसंधान और अन्वेषण करती है।
- **Environmental Monitoring / पर्यावरण निगरानी:** NOAA monitors environmental changes, including climate change, and provides data to support environmental policy and decision-making. NOAA पर्यावरणीय परिवर्तनों की निगरानी करता है, जिसमें जलवायु परिवर्तन शामिल है, और पर्यावरण नीति और निर्णय लेने के लिए डेटा प्रदान करता है।

Recent Updates / हालिया अपडेट्स:

- **Staffing Changes / स्टाफिंग परिवर्तन:** Recent reports indicate that NOAA is facing significant staffing reductions, with concerns about the potential impact on weather forecasting and disaster preparedness. हालिया रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, NOAA महत्वपूर्ण स्टाफिंग कटौती का सामना कर रहा है, जिससे मौसम पूर्वानुमान और आपदा तैयारी पर संभावित प्रभाव को लेकर चिंताएँ हैं।

NOAA's Collaboration with India / NOAA की भारत के साथ साझेदारी:

- **Ocean Observations / महासागर अवलोकन:** NOAA has a longstanding partnership with India's Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to enhance ocean and atmospheric observations, improving weather and climate predictions. NOAA की भारत के पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (MoES) के साथ महासागर और वायुमंडलीय अवलोकनों को बढ़ाने के लिए एक दीर्घकालिक साझेदारी है, जिससे मौसम और जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों में सुधार होता है।
- **Data Sharing / डेटा साझाकरण:** In 2021, NOAA and MoES launched a joint oceanographic data portal, making data from the RAMA-OMNI moored buoy array in the Indian Ocean publicly available. 2021 में, NOAA और MoES ने एक संयुक्त समुद्र विज्ञान डेटा पोर्टल लॉन्च किया, जिससे हिंद महासागर में RAMA-OMNI मूरिंग बुआ सरणी से डेटा सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध हो गया।

Important Concepts / महत्वपूर्ण अवधारणाएँ:

- **RAMA Array / RAMA सरणी:** The Research Moored Array for African-Asian-Australian Monsoon Analysis and Prediction is designed to study the Indian Ocean's role in monsoons, improving forecasts that affect a significant portion of the world's population. अफ्रीकी-एशियाई-ऑस्ट्रेलियाई मानसून विश्लेषण और भविष्यवाणी के लिए अनुसंधान



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मूरिंग सरणी को मानसून में हिंद महासागर की भूमिका का अध्ययन करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, जो दुनिया की एक बड़ी आबादी को प्रभावित करने वाले पूर्वानुमानों में सुधार करता है।

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- **Establishment and Purpose:** Founded in **1988** by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, the IPCC aims to **provide comprehensive assessments of climate change, its impacts, and potential future risks, along with adaptation and mitigation strategies.**
- **Functioning:** The IPCC does not conduct its own research. Instead, it assesses scientific, technical, and socio-economic information produced worldwide, ensuring reports are neutral, policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive.
- **Assessment Reports:** The IPCC releases comprehensive Assessment Reports approximately every six to seven years. The **Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), finalized in 2023**, highlighted that global temperatures have risen by **1.1°C** since the pre-industrial era, emphasizing the urgency for substantial emission reductions to limit warming to **1.5°C**.
- **Recent Developments:** In **November 2024**, during the **29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan**, discussions centered on establishing a **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** for climate finance, aiming for **\$1 trillion to \$1.4 trillion by 2035** to assist developing nations in combating climate change.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- **Establishment and Purpose:** The WMO, established in **1950**, is a specialized agency of the **United Nations** responsible for promoting international cooperation in meteorology, climatology, hydrology, and related fields.
- **Functioning:** The WMO facilitates the free and unrestricted exchange of data, information, and research between meteorological and hydrological institutions globally, supporting disaster risk reduction and safeguarding life and property.
- **Recent Climate Observations:** The WMO reported that **2024** is projected to be the hottest year on record, with global mean surface air temperatures exceeding the pre-industrial average by **1.54°C** from January to September. This surpasses the **1.5°C** warming threshold for the first time, driven by greenhouse gas emissions and the **El Niño** phenomenon.

Relevance to India

- **Climate Impact:** India is highly vulnerable to climate change, facing challenges like intensified monsoons, increased frequency of cyclones, and rising temperatures affecting agriculture and health.

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- **Policy Initiatives:** India actively participates in IPCC assessments and aligns with WMO standards. The country has committed to reducing its **emissions intensity by 33-35% by 2030** and increasing the share of non-fossil fuel-based energy resources.
- **State-Level Actions:** States like **Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar** have developed State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) to address region-specific climate vulnerabilities, focusing on sustainable agriculture, water resource management, and disaster resilience.

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Global coordination can trump efforts to undercut climate predictions

With the U.S. administration under Donald Trump taking a sledgehammer to the NOAA, climate predictions may need to be prepared the same way as the well-coordinated climate projections are in order to protect the overall prediction enterprise from political vagaries and other perturbations

GS Paper I: Geography

Raghu Murtugudde

In one of his first acts in his second term as President of the United States, Donald Trump fired several hundred employees of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The move triggered a lot of discussion in the climate community and beyond about how it will hurt critical weather and climate services.

The climate community has been working hard to help people adapt to the effects of climate change and build resilience against consequences in the future, so it does not help that the NOAA has now been downsized. While this is unfortunate, this isn't entirely surprising considering the NOAA was also under considerable pressure during Mr. Trump's first term as U.S. President.

Predictions and projections

The weather is local while climate is global, but a good weather forecast still requires global patterns to be captured and accounted for. Climate predictions on the other hand focus on meteorological changes that occur more slowly across multiple seasons. Climate projections offer various possible scenarios for multiple decades to come.

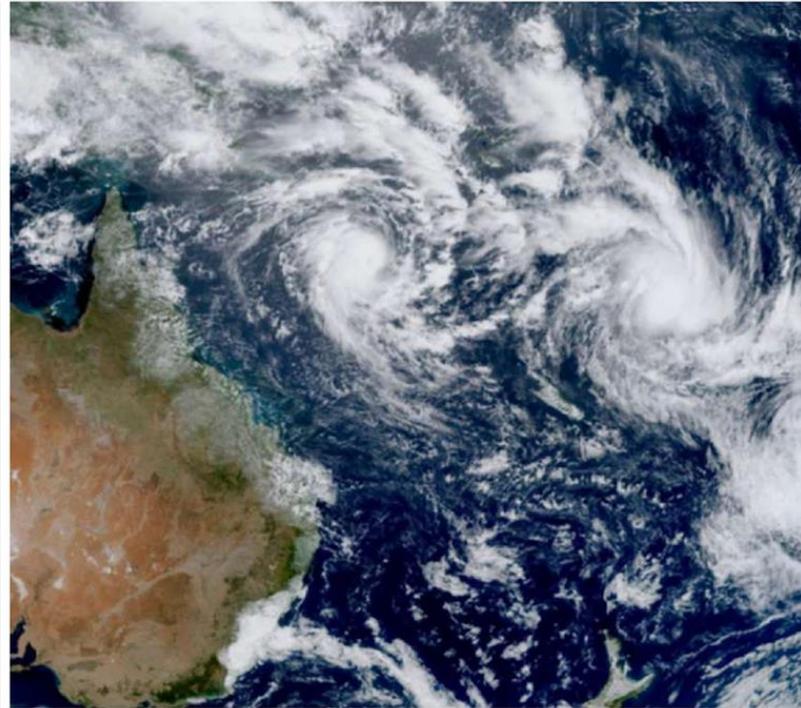
These projection efforts are coordinated closely by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). All the research centres involved in preparing these projections need to follow particular protocols as well as focus on certain previously agreed-upon future scenarios. Once every few years, the IPCC prepares a grand synthesis of all simulations from tens of models to produce an assessment report. The latest such report was issued in 2021-2022.

Climate predictions are national efforts with some coordination under the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), especially for global observational systems. Climate predictions need the models to be prepared by 'initialising' them before each forecast begins. Data from all the relevant sources – including weather-monitoring stations and satellites – are fed into the models responsible for simulating ocean, atmosphere, and land systems. Different prediction centres follow different methodologies during this data assimilation step. Since no single country can cover the globe with its observation systems, global coordination in this enterprise is inevitable.

Climate predictions also tend to be internal efforts. The participating countries under the WMO also merge multiple such predictions to produce a so-called multi-model ensemble.

But as Mr. Trump's decision to take a sledgehammer to the NOAA indicates, we may need to make climate predictions the same way we prepare the well-coordinated climate projections, with redundancies in the global to regional predictions, in order to protect the overall prediction enterprise from political vagaries and other debilitating perturbations.

On the plus side, a globally coordinated climate predictions system will also bring about higher-resolution models and more accurate predictions for all countries. They could also help governments respond better to the rapidly emerging suite of extreme events. Many such events assailed the earth during the



Keeping track: The weather is local while climate is global, but a good weather forecast still requires global patterns to be captured and accounted for. AP

record-setting global warming of 2023 and 2024, and this is likely to continue in 2025. Coordinated predictions will also benefit from regular global stocktakes that record the numbers of events that were correctly predicted and how many provided meaningful inputs to governments to prepare for, mitigate, manage, and recover from climate-related disasters.

Towards K-scale modelling

The other critical question is whether the predictions that are available have the requisite spatial resolution required for governments to respond to location-specific disasters. The answer is a clear 'no'. Even climate projections do not offer information at scales required for regional and local adaptation and resilience-building. There have been repeated calls now to move beyond the current suite of coarse resolution models used for predictions and projections, to move towards the use of 1-km scale, or K-scale, models.

Such modelling will require considerable computing resources that no one country can afford – yet it also offers a valuable opportunity to incorporate climate predictions into international climate action. As other experts have also suggested, a global effort can make this happen, with each region and country receiving more accurate and more location-specific early warnings and seasonal outlooks.

Such coordinated K-scale modelling for climate predictions and projections should be a high priority.

A globally coordinated climate predictions system will bring about higher-resolution models and more accurate predictions for all countries. They could also help governments around the world respond better to a rapidly emerging suite of extreme events

This author has already suggested that modellers focus less on projecting the climate until the year 2100 and more on that at the more socially relevant timescales of multiple years to a decade or two.

Modellers currently understand that uncertainties in projections for the first couple of decades are dominated by the natural variability of the climate system plus limitations in the models themselves. The 'IPCC-class' models thus consider innovation in energy and transportation, population growth, carbon capture, and the effects of various climate policies to understand the possible levels of warming by 2100.

These projections are envisioned to capture all eventualities, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the West Asia conflict, and so on – yet it misses the downsizing of the NOAA and the exit of a highly industrialised country from international climate talks.

A crucial requirement to build resilience in any sector that depends on government funding or market forces is a cost-benefit analysis that justifies its existence. Obviously, it does not suffice to

claim that the value of a service is self-evident. If one prediction center is doing better than another, questions can easily be raised about the size of their workforces and their operational efficiency. If a smaller workforce is consistently able to make better predictions, we need to understand how and replicate it.

This goes beyond Mr. Trump, who has no regard for the effects of the U.S.'s continuing industrialisation on the world's climate. It is instead about a world in which modelling centres and efforts still matter, where public funding is limited even when it is not a zero-sum game, to the extent that the centres need to rationalise their contributions rather than sidestepping audits in the name of a climate "emergency".

Each centre has to be prepared to defend itself with convincing answers to the difficult questions. They may not like the questions but they can still be fair in the larger economic picture. In the same vein, a cost-benefit analysis of the IPCC's projections is also needed to make the climate centres more resilient. Overall, it is crucial to justify the need for continued long-term projections.

All these factors underscore the need for resilient climate prediction efforts as a global enterprise. Any negligence or delay on this front will only leave the centres vulnerable to being pared back themselves. Any system is only as strong as the weakest link.

(Raghu Murtugudde is retired professor, IIT Bombay, and emeritus professor, University of Maryland. mahatma@umd.edu)



Global coordination can trump efforts to undercut climate predictions

वैश्विक समन्वय जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों को कमजोर करने के प्रयासों को मात दे सकता है

With the U.S. administration under Donald Trump taking a sledgehammer to the NOAA, climate predictions may need to be prepared the same way as the well-coordinated climate projections.

डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के नेतृत्व में अमेरिकी प्रशासन द्वारा NOAA पर कठोर कार्रवाई के कारण, जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों को उसी तरह से तैयार करने की आवश्यकता हो सकती है जैसे सुव्यवस्थित जलवायु प्रक्षेपण किए जाते हैं।

- This will help protect the overall prediction enterprise from political vagaries and other perturbations.
इससे संपूर्ण पूर्वानुमान प्रणाली को राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और अन्य व्यवधानों से बचाने में मदद मिलेगी।

Trump's action on NOAA

ट्रंप की NOAA पर कार्रवाई

- In one of his first acts in his second term, Donald Trump fired several hundred employees of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
अपने दूसरे कार्यकाल की पहली कार्रवाइयों में, डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने NOAA के सैकड़ों कर्मचारियों को बर्खास्त कर दिया।
- The move triggered a lot of discussion in the climate community and beyond about how it will hurt critical weather and climate services.
इस कदम ने जलवायु समुदाय और अन्य क्षेत्रों में यह चर्चा छेड़ दी कि यह महत्वपूर्ण मौसम और जलवायु सेवाओं को कैसे नुकसान पहुंचाएगा।
- The NOAA's downsizing affects efforts to help people adapt to climate change and build resilience for future consequences.
NOAA का छोटा किया जाना जलवायु परिवर्तन के लिए लोगों को अनुकूलित करने और भविष्य की चुनौतियों के लिए तैयार करने के प्रयासों को प्रभावित करता है।
- The NOAA was under considerable pressure during Trump's first term as well.
ट्रंप के पहले कार्यकाल के दौरान भी NOAA भारी दबाव में था।



Predictions and projections

पूर्वानुमान और प्रक्षेपण

- **Weather is local while climate is global**, but a good **weather forecast** still requires **global patterns to be accounted for**.
मौसम स्थानीय होता है जबकि जलवायु वैश्विक, लेकिन एक अच्छा मौसम पूर्वानुमान बनाने के लिए वैश्विक पैटर्न को ध्यान में रखना आवश्यक है।
- **Climate predictions focus on meteorological changes across multiple seasons**.
जलवायु पूर्वानुमान कई मौसमों में होने वाले मौसम विज्ञान संबंधी परिवर्तनों पर केंद्रित होते हैं।
- **Climate projections offer possible scenarios for multiple decades**.
जलवायु प्रक्षेपण अनेक दशकों के संभावित परिदृश्य प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

IPC and its role

IPCC और इसकी भूमिका

- These **projection efforts are coordinated by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**.
ये प्रक्षेपण प्रयास संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अंतर-सरकारी जलवायु परिवर्तन पैनल (IPCC) द्वारा समन्वित किए जाते हैं।
- **All research centres follow particular protocols and focus on agreed-upon future scenarios**.
सभी अनुसंधान केंद्र विशिष्ट प्रोटोकॉल का पालन करते हैं और पूर्व-निर्धारित भविष्य के परिदृश्यों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं।
- The **IPCC compiles simulations from multiple models to prepare an assessment report every few years**.
IPCC विभिन्न मॉडलों से सिमुलेशन एकत्रित कर प्रत्येक कुछ वर्षों में एक आकलन रिपोर्ट तैयार करता है।
- The **latest IPCC report was issued in 2021-2022**.
नवीनतम IPCC रिपोर्ट 2021-2022 में जारी की गई थी।

Climate predictions and global coordination

जलवायु पूर्वानुमान और वैश्विक समन्वय

- **Climate predictions are national efforts but involve coordination under the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**.
जलवायु पूर्वानुमान राष्ट्रीय प्रयास होते हैं, लेकिन ये संयुक्त राष्ट्र विश्व मौसम संगठन (WMO) के तहत समन्वयित होते हैं।
- These predictions require **data from weather-monitoring stations and satellites to be fed into models simulating the ocean, atmosphere, and land systems**.



इन पूर्वानुमानों के लिए मौसम निगरानी स्टेशनों और उपग्रहों से डेटा को महासागर, वायुमंडल और भूमि प्रणालियों के मॉडलों में डाला जाता है।

- Since no single country can cover the entire globe, global coordination is inevitable.

क्योंकि कोई भी देश पूरे विश्व को कवर नहीं कर सकता, इसलिए वैश्विक समन्वय अनिवार्य है।

- Countries under the WMO merge multiple predictions into a multi-model ensemble. WMO के तहत देश विभिन्न पूर्वानुमानों को मल्टी-मॉडल एन्सेम्बल में एकीकृत करते हैं।

Need for a globally coordinated climate prediction system

वैश्विक रूप से समन्वित जलवायु पूर्वानुमान प्रणाली की आवश्यकता

- Trump's decision to weaken NOAA shows that climate predictions must be made as systematically as climate projections.

ट्रंप के NOAA को कमजोर करने के निर्णय से पता चलता है कि जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों को जलवायु प्रक्षेपणों की तरह सुव्यवस्थित रूप से तैयार करना चाहिए।

- Global redundancies in climate predictions will help protect them from political vagaries and disruptions.

वैश्विक स्तर पर जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों में पुनरावृत्तियां उन्हें राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और व्यवधानों से बचाने में मदद करेंगी।

- A globally coordinated system will lead to higher-resolution models and more accurate predictions.

वैश्विक रूप से समन्वित प्रणाली उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन मॉडल और अधिक सटीक पूर्वानुमान सुनिश्चित करेगी।

- Governments will be better equipped to respond to extreme climate events like those seen in 2023 and 2024.

सरकारें 2023 और 2024 में देखी गई चरम जलवायु घटनाओं का बेहतर तरीके से सामना कर पाएंगी।

- Regular global stocktakes will help track the accuracy of climate predictions and their effectiveness in disaster preparedness.

नियमित वैश्विक मूल्यांकन जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों की सटीकता और आपदा तैयारी में उनकी प्रभावशीलता को ट्रैक करने में मदद करेगा।

Towards K-scale modelling

K-स्केल मॉडलिंग की ओर

- The other critical question is whether the predictions available have the requisite spatial resolution for governments to respond to location-specific disasters. The answer is a clear 'no'.

दूसरा महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि क्या उपलब्ध पूर्वानुमानों में पर्याप्त स्थानिक रिज़ॉल्यूशन है ताकि सरकारें स्थान-विशिष्ट आपदाओं का सामना कर सकें। इसका उत्तर स्पष्ट रूप से 'नहीं' है।



- Even **climate projections** do not offer information at **scales required for regional and local adaptation and resilience-building**.
यहां तक कि जलवायु प्रक्षेपण भी क्षेत्रीय और स्थानीय अनुकूलन और सहनशक्ति निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक पैमाने की जानकारी प्रदान नहीं करते।
- There have been repeated calls to move beyond **coarse resolution models** used for predictions and projections and transition to **1-km scale (K-scale) models**.
पूर्वानुमानों और प्रक्षेपणों के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले **अल्प-रिज़ॉल्यूशन मॉडलों** से आगे बढ़कर **1-किमी स्केल (K-स्केल) मॉडल** की ओर जाने की लगातार मांग हो रही है।

Challenges and Opportunities of K-scale Modelling

K-स्केल मॉडलिंग की चुनौतियाँ और अवसर

- **K-scale modelling requires substantial computing resources** that no single country can afford.
K-स्केल मॉडलिंग के लिए भारी कंप्यूटिंग संसाधनों की आवश्यकता होती है, जिसे कोई एक देश अकेले वहन नहीं कर सकता।
- However, it offers an opportunity to **incorporate climate predictions into international climate action**.
हालांकि, यह जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय जलवायु कार्रवाई में शामिल करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है।
- A **global effort** can make this happen, ensuring each **region and country receives accurate, location-specific early warnings and seasonal outlooks**.
एक वैश्विक प्रयास से यह संभव हो सकता है, जिससे प्रत्येक क्षेत्र और देश को सटीक, स्थान-विशिष्ट प्रारंभिक चेतावनी और मौसमी पूर्वानुमान प्राप्त होंगे।
- **Coordinated K-scale modelling for climate predictions and projections should be a high priority**.
जलवायु पूर्वानुमानों और प्रक्षेपणों के लिए समन्वित K-स्केल मॉडलिंग को उच्च प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए।

Shifting Focus in Climate Modelling

जलवायु मॉडलिंग में फोकस बदलना

- The author suggests that **modellers should focus less on projecting climate until 2100 and more on socially relevant timescales of multiple years to a decade or two**.
लेखक का सुझाव है कि **मॉडल निर्माताओं को 2100 तक जलवायु के अनुमान पर कम और सामाजिक रूप से प्रासंगिक समय-सीमाओं (कई वर्षों से एक या दो दशक) पर अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।**
- **Uncertainties in projections for the first few decades are dominated by natural variability of the climate system and limitations in models**.



पहले कुछ दशकों के प्रक्षेपणों में अनिश्चितताओं का मुख्य कारण जलवायु प्रणाली की प्राकृतिक परिवर्तनशीलता और मॉडलों की सीमाएं होती हैं।

- IPCC-class models consider factors such as innovation in energy, transportation, population growth, carbon capture, and climate policies to estimate possible warming levels by 2100.

IPCC-श्रेणी के मॉडल ऊर्जा, परिवहन, जनसंख्या वृद्धि, कार्बन कैप्चर और जलवायु नीतियों में नवाचार जैसे कारकों को ध्यान में रखते हैं ताकि 2100 तक संभावित तापमान वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया जा सके।

Limitations of Current Projections

वर्तमान प्रक्षेपणों की सीमाएँ

- These projections aim to capture all major events, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the West Asia conflict.
इन प्रक्षेपणों का उद्देश्य रूस का यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण और पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष जैसे सभी प्रमुख घटनाक्रमों को शामिल करना है।
- However, they fail to account for events like the downsizing of the NOAA and the exit of a highly industrialized country from climate talks.
हालांकि, ये NOAA के छोटे किए जाने और किसी अत्यधिक औद्योगिकृत देश के जलवायु वार्ताओं से बाहर होने जैसी घटनाओं को शामिल करने में असफल रहते हैं।

Cost-Benefit Analysis in Climate Modelling

जलवायु मॉडलिंग में लागत-लाभ विश्लेषण

- Resilience-building sectors, whether dependent on government funding or market forces, require a cost-benefit analysis to justify their existence.
सहनशक्ति निर्माण से जुड़े क्षेत्र, चाहे वे सरकारी वित्तपोषण या बाजार बलों पर निर्भर हों, उन्हें अपने अस्तित्व को सही ठहराने के लिए लागत-लाभ विश्लेषण की आवश्यकता होती है।
- It is not enough to claim that the value of a service is self-evident. If one prediction center consistently outperforms another, questions arise about their workforce size and operational efficiency.
यह कहना पर्याप्त नहीं है कि किसी सेवा का मूल्य स्व-स्पष्ट है। यदि कोई पूर्वानुमान केंद्र लगातार दूसरे से बेहतर प्रदर्शन करता है, तो उसके कर्मचारियों की संख्या और संचालन क्षमता पर सवाल उठते हैं।
- If a smaller workforce produces better predictions, it is essential to study and replicate their methods.
यदि कम कर्मचारी संख्या वाला केंद्र बेहतर पूर्वानुमान देता है, तो उनके तरीकों का अध्ययन और पुनरावृत्ति आवश्यक है।

Beyond Trump: The Future of Climate Modelling Centers

ट्रंप से आगे: जलवायु मॉडलिंग केंद्रों का भविष्य



- The issue goes beyond Mr. Trump, who has no regard for the effects of U.S. industrialization on the climate.
यह मुद्दा ट्रंप से आगे जाता है, जो अमेरिका के औद्योगीकरण के जलवायु प्रभावों की परवाह नहीं करते।
- Modelling centers remain critical, yet public funding is limited, even when climate issues are not a zero-sum game.
मॉडलिंग केंद्र महत्वपूर्ण बने हुए हैं, फिर भी सार्वजनिक वित्तपोषण सीमित है, भले ही जलवायु मुद्दे शून्य-योग खेल (zero-sum game) न हों।
- Centers must rationalize their contributions instead of sidestepping audits in the name of a climate “emergency”.
केंद्रों को अपने योगदान को तार्किक बनाना चाहिए, बजाय इसके कि वे जलवायु "आपातकाल" के नाम पर ऑडिट से बचें।
- Each center must be prepared to justify its existence with convincing answers to difficult questions.
प्रत्येक केंद्र को अपने अस्तित्व को सही ठहराने के लिए कठिन प्रश्नों के ठोस उत्तर तैयार रखने चाहिए।
- A cost-benefit analysis of the IPCC’s projections is needed to make climate centres more resilient.
IPCC के प्रक्षेपणों के लागत-लाभ विश्लेषण की आवश्यकता है ताकि जलवायु केंद्र अधिक सक्षम बन सकें।
- Global climate prediction efforts must be resilient. Any negligence or delay will leave these centres vulnerable.
वैश्विक जलवायु पूर्वानुमान प्रयासों को मजबूत बनाना आवश्यक है। कोई भी लापरवाही या देरी इन केंद्रों को असुरक्षित बना सकती है।

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

1. In Mauritius, Modi Calls for ‘Free, Secure’ Indian Ocean
मॉरीशस में, मोदी ने ‘मुक्त, सुरक्षित’ हिंद महासागर की वकालत की
2. EU Strikes Back with Tariffs on U.S. Imports
ईयू ने अमेरिकी आयात पर शुल्क लगाकर जवाब दिया
3. Resolving the Vexatious Fishing Dispute
मतभेदपूर्ण मत्स्य विवाद का समाधान
4. Will Musk Be Expelled from the Royal Society?
क्या मस्क को रॉयल सोसाइटी से निष्कासित किया जाएगा?
5. Immigration and Foreigners Bill Not Connected to Grant of Citizenship: Official



आप्रवासन और विदेशी विधेयक नागरिकता प्रदान करने से संबंधित
नहीं: अधिकारी

6. Centre Asks Gujarat Court to Serve U.S. Summons on Adani

केंद्र ने गुजरात कोर्ट से अदानी को अमेरिकी समन देने को कहा

7. In Rajya Sabha, Trinamool calls for short discussion on duplicate EPICs next week

राज्यसभा में, तृणमूल ने अगले सप्ताह डुप्लीकेट EPICs पर लघु चर्चा की मांग की

8. Indian Railways to dig ponds under govt.'s Mission Amrit Sarovar

सरकार के मिशन अमृत सरोवर के तहत भारतीय रेलवे तालाब खोदेगा

9. APAAR ID system voluntary, but activists and parents raise concern over growing mandates

APAAR आईडी प्रणाली स्वैच्छिक, लेकिन कार्यकर्ता और अभिभावक बढ़ते अनिवार्य नियमों पर चिंता जता रहे हैं



In Mauritius, Modi calls for 'free, secure' Indian Ocean

GS Paper II: India-Mauritius

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said a "free, open, secure, and safe" Indian Ocean was a common priority for both India and Mauritius.

Mr. Modi, who is on a two-day state visit to the island nation, said this while delivering a speech alongside Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

He also conveyed India's unambiguous support for the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos archipelago.

Civil servants' training
"In the next five years, 500 civil servants of Mauritius will be trained in India. We have also agreed to settle trade matters through lo-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the Mauritius National Day celebrations in Port Louis on Wednesday with Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam and President Dharambeer Gokhool. ANI

cal currencies. The Prime Minister and I agree that defence cooperation and maritime security are important parts of the strategic partnership between the two sides. Free, open, secure and safe Indian Ocean is our common priority," Mr. Modi said af-

ter the bilateral talks.

The two sides also sealed eight memorandums of understanding, including one that will allow settlement of trade issues through local currencies.

CONTINUED ON
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In Mauritius, Modi Calls for 'Free, Secure' Indian Ocean
मॉरीशस में, मोदी ने

'मुक्त, सुरक्षित' हिंद महासागर की वकालत की

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said a "free, open, secure, and safe" Indian Ocean was a common priority for both India and Mauritius.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने बुधवार को कहा कि "मुक्त, खुला, सुरक्षित और संरक्षित" हिंद महासागर भारत और मॉरीशस की एक सामान्य प्राथमिकता है।

- Mr. Modi, who is on a **two-day state visit** to the island nation, said this while delivering a speech alongside **Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam**.

श्री मोदी, जो इस द्वीप राष्ट्र के दो दिवसीय राजकीय दौर पर हैं, ने यह बात मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री नवीनचंद्र रामगुलाम के साथ भाषण देते हुए कही।

- He also conveyed **India's unambiguous support** for the **sovereignty of Mauritius** over the **Chagos archipelago**.

उन्होंने चागोस द्वीपसमूह पर मॉरीशस की संप्रभुता के लिए भारत का स्पष्ट समर्थन व्यक्त किया।

Civil Servants' Training
नागरिक सेवकों का प्रशिक्षण



- "In the next five years, 500 civil servants of Mauritius will be trained in India.
"अगले पाँच वर्षों में, मॉरीशस के 500 नागरिक सेवकों को भारत में प्रशिक्षित किया जाएगा।
- We have also agreed to settle trade matters through local currencies.
हमने स्थानीय मुद्राओं के माध्यम से व्यापार मामलों के निपटारे पर भी सहमति व्यक्त की है।
- The Prime Minister and I agree that defence cooperation and maritime security are important parts of the strategic partnership between the two sides.
प्रधानमंत्री और मैं इस बात से सहमत हैं कि रक्षा सहयोग और समुद्री सुरक्षा दोनों पक्षों के बीच रणनीतिक साझेदारी के महत्वपूर्ण भाग हैं।
- Free, open, secure, and safe Indian Ocean is our common priority," Mr. Modi said after the bilateral talks.
मुक्त, खुला, सुरक्षित और संरक्षित हिंद महासागर हमारी सामान्य प्राथमिकता है," श्री मोदी ने द्विपक्षीय वार्ता के बाद कहा।
- The two sides also sealed eight memorandums of understanding (MoUs), including one that will allow settlement of trade issues through local currencies.
दोनों पक्षों ने आठ समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoUs) पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए, जिनमें से एक स्थानीय मुद्राओं के माध्यम से व्यापार मामलों के निपटारे की अनुमति देगा।

Chagos Archipelago (चागोस द्वीपसमूह)

- The Chagos Archipelago is a group of over 60 tropical islands located in the Indian Ocean, about 500 km south of the Maldives.
- It is one of the most remote island groups in the world and has been at the center of an international territorial dispute between the United Kingdom (UK) and Mauritius.

Geographical Location (भौगोलिक स्थिति)

- Coordinates: 5°S to 7°S latitude and 71°E to 73°E longitude.
- Surrounding Regions:
 - North: Maldives
 - South: Seychelles
 - West: African coastline
 - East: Sumatra (Indonesia)
- Largest Island: Diego Garcia, which houses a US military base.

Historical Background (ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि)

- 16th Century: Discovered by Portuguese explorers.
- 18th Century: Came under French control as part of Mauritius.
- 1814: The British took control of Mauritius (including Chagos) after the Treaty of Paris.



- **1965:** The UK separated the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius, creating the **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)**.
- **1966:** The UK leased **Diego Garcia** to the **United States**, establishing a **major military base**.
- **1967-1973:** **Forced displacement of the native Chagossians** to Mauritius and Seychelles.

Legal and Political Disputes (कानूनी और राजनैतिक विवाद)

- **2019:** The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** ruled that the UK's control over the Chagos Archipelago was **unlawful** and that it should return the islands to **Mauritius**.
- **2021:** The **United Nations (UN)** recognized Mauritius's sovereignty over Chagos.
- **2022:** **UK and Mauritius** began negotiations over the future of the islands.

Strategic and Environmental Importance (रणनीतिक और पर्यावरणीय महत्त्व)

- **Military Base:** Diego Garcia is **one of the most important US military bases**, playing a key role in operations in the **Middle East and Asia**.
- **Marine Protected Area (MPA):** The UK declared Chagos a **Marine Protected Area in 2010**, leading to disputes with Mauritius.
- **Biodiversity:** The region has **one of the world's most pristine coral reef ecosystems** with rich marine biodiversity.

EU strikes back with tariffs on U.S. imports

[GS Paper II: EU-US](#)

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Union (EU) on Wednesday announced that it will impose counter-tariffs on U.S. imports, retaliating against President Donald Trump's steel and aluminium tariffs, hours after they came into effect.

The countermeasures will amount to tariffs on €26 billion of U.S. goods entering the EU, equivalent to Mr. Trump's targeting of \$28 billion of EU goods entering U.S. markets.

"We deeply regret this measure," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, referring to Mr. Trump's move

to impose 25% tariffs on steel, aluminium, and products based on these from the EU and other jurisdictions.

Impact on 5% goods

The U.S. tariffs will impact 5% of all EU goods exports to the U.S., the EU said in a statement.

The first Trump administration had initially applied these tariffs in 2018. They are referred to as "Section 232" tariffs, named after a provision under U.S. trade law permitting tariffs for reasons of "national security".

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EU Strikes Back with Tariffs on U.S. Imports

ईयू ने अमेरिकी आयात पर शुल्क लगाकर जवाब दिया

The European Union (EU) on Wednesday announced that it will impose counter-tariffs on U.S. imports, retaliating against President Donald Trump's steel and aluminium tariffs, hours after they came into effect.

यूरोपीय संघ (ईयू) ने बुधवार को घोषणा की कि वह अमेरिकी आयात पर प्रतिशोधी शुल्क लगाएगा, जो राष्ट्रपति



डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के स्टील और एल्युमिनियम पर लगाए गए शुल्क के जवाब में होगा, कुछ ही घंटों बाद जब वे प्रभावी हुए।

- The countermeasures will amount to **tariffs on €26 billion** of U.S. goods entering the EU, equivalent to **Mr. Trump's targeting of \$28 billion** of EU goods entering U.S. markets.
प्रतिशोधी उपायों में ईयू में प्रवेश करने वाले **€26 बिलियन** के अमेरिकी सामानों पर शुल्क लगेगा, जो श्री ट्रंप द्वारा अमेरिकी बाजारों में प्रवेश करने वाले **€28 बिलियन** के ईयू उत्पादों को निशाना बनाए जाने के बराबर है।
- "We deeply regret this measure," **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** said, referring to **Mr. Trump's move to impose 25% tariffs on steel, aluminium, and related products** from the EU and other jurisdictions.
"हम इस कदम पर गहरा खेद व्यक्त करते हैं," यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयन ने कहा, यह उल्लेख करते हुए कि श्री ट्रंप ने ईयू और अन्य क्षेत्रों से स्टील, एल्युमिनियम और संबंधित उत्पादों पर **25% शुल्क** लगाया।

Impact on 5% Goods

5% उत्पादों पर प्रभाव

- The **U.S. tariffs** will impact **5% of all EU goods exports** to the U.S., the EU said in a statement.
अमेरिकी शुल्क ईयू से अमेरिका को निर्यात किए जाने वाले कुल **5% उत्पादों** को प्रभावित करेगा, ईयू ने एक बयान में कहा।
- The **first Trump administration** had initially applied these **tariffs in 2018**.
पहले ट्रंप प्रशासन ने ये शुल्क **2018** में पहली बार लागू किए थे।
- They are referred to as "**Section 232**" tariffs, named after a **provision under U.S. trade law permitting tariffs for reasons of "national security"**.
इन्हें "**सेक्शन 232**" शुल्क कहा जाता है, जो अमेरिकी व्यापार कानून के तहत "**राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा**" के कारणों से शुल्क लगाने की अनुमति देने वाले प्रावधान का नाम है।



Resolving the vexatious fishing dispute

GS Paper II: India-Sri-Lanka

Last week, the Leader of the House in the Sri Lankan Parliament, Bimal Rathnayake, called upon the Indian and Tamil Nadu governments to take “decisive action” against “illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters”. Mr. Rathnayake, also the Transport and Highways Minister, is a key figure in the ruling Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led National People’s Power (NPP) government.

While acknowledging the support of India in general, and Tamil Nadu in particular, to his country during the civil war, the economic crisis, and floods, Mr. Rathnayake made it clear that “the real help” would be to help protect the livelihood of Tamil-speaking fishermen of the Northern Province, who have been “victims of illegal fishing”.

In recent years, this is the first time that a high-ranking dignitary from Sri Lanka has spoken so strongly about the festering Palk Bay fisheries dispute, which should have been resolved long ago. In March 2015, the then Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, defended the response of the Sri Lanka Navy to Indian fishermen and termed it as legitimate to “shoot fishermen” trespassing into Sri Lankan waters.

A pernicious practice

So far, neither the External Affairs Ministry nor the Tamil Nadu government’s representative has reacted to Mr. Rathnayake’s statement. This is not surprising; it is an open secret that fishermen from the districts of Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, and from the Karaikal district of the Union Territory of Puducherry, have been crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line for fishing, in pursuit of their livelihoods. More than illegal fishing, fisherfolk of the Northern Province have been complaining about bottom trawling by Indian fishermen. Widely condemned for its



T. Ramakrishnan

Talks between the fishermen of India and Sri Lanka could pave the way for an agreement to put an end to bottom trawling

destructive impact on marine ecosystems, bottom trawling is responsible for nearly half of all discarded fish and marine life globally and disrupts the breeding cycle. The asymmetric economic relationship between the Tamil Nadu fishing community, which is wealthier, and the Sri Lankan fisherfolk from the Northern Province, which is recovering from the aftermath of the civil war, complicates the situation. The north Sri Lankan fishermen, who depend on conventional forms of fishing, are seeking a sustainable solution to protect their waters from over-exploitation.

At the same time, the Indian fishermen are constrained by many factors. There is a small area available for fishing within Indian waters, which is marked by rocks and coral reefs. The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, restricts fishing activities along the Tamil Nadu coastline. Unlike the current 24-hour voyages in the Palk Bay region, the duration for deep-sea fishing, which has long been suggested as an alternative to the fisherfolk, takes around three weeks and naturally involves higher costs of operation and labour. Moreover, diversification requires fishermen to change their orientation, which, in a traditional occupation, can only happen in a gradual manner. It is for these and other reasons that the joint scheme executed by the Union and State governments for deep-sea fishing since July 2017 has come as a cropper.

Needless to say, the governments of India and Tamil Nadu should do more to wean away fishermen from the pernicious practice of bottom trawling, such as by promoting seaweed cultivation, open sea cage ranching. The least the Union government can do is to merge the ₹1,600-crore Palk Bay deep-sea fishing scheme with the ₹20,050-crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. This will help fishermen participate more in deep-sea fishing, given the

higher unit cost allowed for deep-sea fishing vessels.

The importance of talks

But Mr. Rathnayake must be aware that given the complexity of the problem, it is not so easy for any government to bring about such a transition swiftly, let alone seamlessly. What he did not address was his government’s attitude towards facilitating talks between the fishermen of the two countries. Both the Indian and Tamil Nadu governments have favoured the resumption of talks between fishermen; these were last held in New Delhi in November 2016. At the last Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo in October last year, the Indian team raised the demand for talks. Even a delegation of fishermen from the Northern Province, who recently met officials of the Indian Consulate General in Jaffna, expressed its willingness to resume discussions with their counterparts on the other side of the Palk Bay. But surprisingly, the NPP government has been silent on this matter. Nothing much can be read into its attitude since it has not even completed six months in office.

The next few months would, in fact, be ideal for the talks to take place, as the annual two-month-long ban on fishing in the eastern coast of India ordinarily begins in mid-April. The senior JVP leader would do well to convince his colleagues, both within and outside the regime, of the need for negotiations which could pave the way for an agreement between the two sides to put an end to this practice. Opposition MP Mano Ganesan said that Colombo should take up the fisheries dispute with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is expected to visit Sri Lanka in April. Colombo will then have an excellent opportunity to not only support the resumption of talks between the fishermen, but also offer to host the negotiations.

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Resolving the Vexatious Fishing Dispute

मतभेदपूर्ण मत्स्य विवाद का समाधान

Last week, Leader of the House in the Sri Lankan Parliament, Bimal Rathnayake, urged the Indian and Tamil Nadu governments to take “decisive action” against “illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters”.

पिछले सप्ताह, श्रीलंकाई संसद में सदन के नेता बिमल रत्नायके ने भारतीय और तमिलनाडु सरकारों से "श्रीलंकाई जल क्षेत्र में अवैध मछली पकड़ने" के खिलाफ "निर्णायक कार्रवाई" करने का आग्रह किया।

- Mr. Rathnayake, also the Transport and Highways Minister, is a key figure in the ruling Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led National People's Power (NPP) government.

श्री रत्नायके, जो परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री भी हैं, सत्तारूढ़ जनता विमुक्ति परामुना (JVP) द्वारा संचालित राष्ट्रीय जनशक्ति (NPP) सरकार में एक प्रमुख व्यक्ति हैं।

- While acknowledging India's support to Sri Lanka during the civil war, economic crisis, and floods, he stated that “real help” would be to protect the livelihood of Tamil-speaking fishermen in the Northern Province, who have been victims of illegal fishing.

श्रीलंका में गृहयुद्ध, आर्थिक संकट और बाढ़ के दौरान भारत के समर्थन को स्वीकार करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि "वास्तविक मदद" यह होगी कि तमिल भाषी मछुआरों की आजीविका को सुरक्षित किया जाए, जो अवैध मछली पकड़ने के शिकार रहे हैं।

- This is the first time in recent years that a high-ranking Sri Lankan dignitary has spoken so strongly about the Palk Bay fisheries dispute, which should have been resolved long ago.

यह हाल के वर्षों में पहली बार है जब किसी उच्च पदस्थ श्रीलंकाई गणमान्य व्यक्ति ने पाक खाड़ी मत्स्य विवाद पर इतनी कड़ी प्रतिक्रिया दी है, जिसे बहुत पहले सुलझा लिया जाना चाहिए था।

- In March 2015, then Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, defended the Sri Lanka Navy's actions against Indian fishermen, calling it legitimate to "shoot fishermen" trespassing into Sri Lankan waters.

मार्च 2015 में, उस समय के श्रीलंकाई प्रधानमंत्री रानिल विक्रमसिंघे ने भारतीय मछुआरों के खिलाफ श्रीलंकाई नौसेना की कार्रवाई का बचाव करते हुए इसे "श्रीलंकाई जल क्षेत्र में घुसपैठ करने वाले मछुआरों को गोली मारना वैध" बताया था।

A Pernicious Practice

एक हानिकारक प्रथा



- So far, neither the **External Affairs Ministry** nor the **Tamil Nadu government** has reacted to **Mr. Rathnayake's** statement.
अब तक, विदेश मंत्रालय और तमिलनाडु सरकार ने श्री रत्नायके के बयान पर कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी है।
- **It is an open secret that fishermen from Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam (Tamil Nadu), and Karaikal (Puducherry) cross the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) for fishing.**
यह एक खुला रहस्य है कि रामनाथपुरम, पुदुकोट्टई, तंजावर, नागपट्टिनम (तमिलनाडु) और कराईकल (पुदुचेरी) के मछुआरे अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री सीमा रेखा (IMBL) पार कर मछली पकड़ने जाते हैं।
- **More than illegal fishing, Sri Lankan fishermen complain about bottom trawling by Indian fishermen, which is widely condemned for its destructive impact on marine ecosystems.**
अवैध मछली पकड़ने से अधिक, श्रीलंकाई मछुआरे भारतीय मछुआरों द्वारा किए गए बॉटम ट्रॉलिंग की शिकायत करते हैं, जिसे समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर विनाशकारी प्रभाव के लिए व्यापक रूप से निंदा की जाती है।
- **Bottom trawling is responsible for nearly half of all discarded fish and marine life globally and disrupts the breeding cycle.**
बॉटम ट्रॉलिंग वैश्विक स्तर पर लगभग आधे त्यागे गए मछली और समुद्री जीवन के लिए जिम्मेदार है और प्रजनन चक्र को बाधित करता है।
- **The asymmetric economic relationship between Tamil Nadu's wealthier fishing community and Sri Lanka's Northern Province fishermen, who are still recovering from the civil war's aftermath, complicates the situation.**
तमिलनाडु के समृद्ध मछुआरा समुदाय और श्रीलंका के उत्तरी प्रांत के संघर्षग्रस्त मछुआरों के बीच असमान आर्थिक संबंध स्थिति को और जटिल बनाते हैं।
- **Northern Sri Lankan fishermen are seeking a sustainable solution to protect their waters from over-exploitation.**
उत्तर श्रीलंकाई मछुआरे अपने जल क्षेत्र को अति-शोषण से बचाने के लिए एक स्थायी समाधान की मांग कर रहे हैं।
- **The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, restricts fishing activities along the Tamil Nadu coastline.**
तमिलनाडु समुद्री मत्स्य पालन विनियमन अधिनियम, 1983, तमिलनाडु तटरेखा पर मछली पकड़ने की गतिविधियों को प्रतिबंधित करता है।
- **Since July 2017, the Union and State governments' joint deep-sea fishing scheme has failed to yield results.**
जुलाई 2017 से, संघ और राज्य सरकारों की संयुक्त गहरे समुद्री मत्स्य पालन योजना सकारात्मक परिणाम देने में विफल रही है।
- **The Union government should merge the ₹1,600-crore Palk Bay deep-sea fishing scheme with the ₹20,050-crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana to encourage deep-sea fishing.**
केंद्र सरकार को ₹1,600 करोड़ की पाक खाड़ी गहरे समुद्री मत्स्य योजना को ₹20,050 करोड़ की प्रधानमंत्री मत्स्य संपदा योजना में मिलाना चाहिए ताकि गहरे समुद्री मत्स्य पालन को बढ़ावा मिल सके।



The Importance of Talks

वार्ता का महत्व

- **Mr. Rathnayake** did not mention his government's attitude towards **facilitating talks between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen**.
श्री रत्नायके ने अपनी सरकार की भारतीय और श्रीलंकाई मछुआरों के बीच वार्ता को बढ़ावा देने की नीति पर कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की।
- The last **fishermen's talks** were held in **New Delhi in November 2016**.
अंतिम मछुआरों की वार्ता नवंबर 2016 में नई दिल्ली में हुई थी।
- At the **Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo (October last year)**, India demanded the resumption of talks, but the **NPP government** has remained silent.
कोलंबो में पिछले साल अक्टूबर में संयुक्त कार्य समूह की बैठक में, भारत ने वार्ता फिर से शुरू करने की मांग की, लेकिन **NPP सरकार** ने कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।
- **Opposition MP Mano Ganesan** suggested that Colombo should **discuss the fisheries dispute with PM Narendra Modi**, who is **expected to visit Sri Lanka in April**.
विपक्षी सांसद मानो गणेशन ने सुझाव दिया कि कोलंबो को **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** के साथ मत्स्य विवाद पर चर्चा करनी चाहिए, जो अप्रैल में श्रीलंका के दौरे पर आ सकते हैं।
- This visit could be an **opportunity for Sri Lanka to support fishermen's talks and host negotiations**.
यह दौरा श्रीलंका के लिए मछुआरों की वार्ता को समर्थन देने और वार्ता आयोजित करने का अवसर बन सकता है।



Will Musk be expelled from the Royal Society?

Why are some fellows of the Royal Society in Britain demanding the removal of billionaire Elon Musk from the Society? Have scientists resigned over the issue? Why is the Society hesitant on being seen as taking a 'political' decision? Why was Musk given membership in the first place?

GS Paper II: International Organizations

EXPLAINER

Atanu Biswas

The story so far:

The 365-year-old Royal Society in Britain, one of the most reputed scientific institutions in the world, is experiencing a crisis that raises fundamental concerns about the role of a top scientific institution. The Royal Society's former members include notable figures like Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Stephen Hawking, among others. Becoming a member of the Royal Society is frequently regarded as the culmination of an extensive research career, and fellows are chosen after a rigorous process. The Royal Society also imposes a code of conduct on its fellows once they are elected. Of late, there has been a growing demand to rescind Elon Musk's fellowship for violating the code.

Who is making the demand?

In 1775, the German scientist and writer Rudolf Erich Raspe was expelled from the Royal Society after being accused of "divers frauds and gross breaches of trust". Today, the actions of the world's richest man has been deemed a "threat to science" by numerous scientists.

The first fellow of the Royal Society to resign over this matter was Dorothy Bishop, emeritus professor of developmental neuropsychology at the University of Oxford. In 2024, she lodged two complaints with the Royal Society. "On both occasions they consulted lawyers, and it may well be the case that the lawyers are concerned about the prospect of legal action," she told the BBC. Another fellow, Andrew Millar of the University of Edinburgh, did the same in February this year.

An open letter to the president of the Royal Society, currently British statistician Adrian Smith, has been signed by almost 3,500 members of the wider scientific community. Stephen Curry, an emeritus



Scientific temper: U.S. President Donald Trump and Elon Musk shake hands in front of a Tesla cybertruck, at the White House in Washington, on March 11. REUTERS

professor of structural biology at Imperial College London, penned it and expressed similar dismay. Fellow of the Royal Society, AI pioneer, and 2024 physics Nobel Prize winner Geoffrey Hinton also wrote on X that he was in favour of Mr. Musk's removal. "I think Elon Musk should be expelled from the British Royal Society. Not because he peddles conspiracy theories and makes Nazi salutes, but because of the huge damage he is doing to scientific institutions in the US," Mr. Hinton wrote. Mr. Musk replied: "Only craven, insecure fools care about awards and memberships".

What have been the charges?

Many fellows believe the billionaire's inflammatory remarks on British politicians have breached the Royal Society's code of conduct. Scientists have

also expressed concerns regarding Mr.

Musk's conduct within the current Donald Trump administration. In his leading position at the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (or DOGE), Mr. Musk has overseen unprecedented cuts to funding meant for scientific research. He has also been spreading false material and engaging in political propaganda on his social media platform, X. His company Neuralink recently reported developing a novel brain-computer interface. Although this is a worthwhile objective, the research methodology is distinguished by Mr. Musk's resistance to allowing others to influence his methods. This has resulted in allegations of non-compliance with 'Good Laboratory Practice' regulations. Additionally, Mr. Musk's slanderous charges against public scientists like Anthony Fauci and other

public personae have also drawn criticism from a number of scientists. Mr. Musk is also accused of encouraging vaccine hesitancy and baselessly doubting the foundations of climate change science.

Why has he not been expelled?

The Royal Society counts more than 1,700 fellows, and at least 60 of them have signed Mr. Curry's letter to have Mr. Musk expelled. But not everyone in the scientific community agrees with it. For instance, Nobel laureate Andre Geim of Manchester University stated, "Musk is certainly an eccentric, but his achievements beat those of any of his critics in the Royal Society. Very few can say that they achieved similar [feats] in their lives." According to the Society, Mr. Musk was elected in 2018 ostensibly in appreciation of his contributions. He was the lead designer at SpaceX, where he oversaw the development of reusable rockets and spacecraft for missions to earth orbit. He oversaw the design, engineering, and manufacturing of products for the electric car company Tesla, which first popularised EVs. He also developed ultra-high bandwidth brain-machine interfaces to connect the brain to computers at Neuralink.

It might be politically challenging to revoke Mr. Musk's fellowship at a time of increasing tensions between the U.S. and the U.K. Some have claimed that removing Mr. Musk could undermine public confidence in science as it would erode the integrity of science by obfuscating its separation from politics.

What next?

Following a meeting of the body on March 3, 2025, Elon Musk's Royal Society fellowship is still in place. A statement by the Society following the meeting did not mention Musk. The group decided to "look at potential further actions" that would "counter the misinformation and ideologically motivated attacks on both science and scientists."

Atanu Biswas is professor of statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

THE GIST

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The Royal Society counts more than 1,700 fellows, and at least 60 of them have signed Mr. Curry's letter to have Mr. Musk expelled. But not everyone in the scientific community agrees with it.

Some have claimed that removing Mr. Musk could undermine public confidence in science as it would erode the integrity of science by obfuscating its separation from politics.

Will Musk Be Expelled from the Royal Society?

क्या मस्क को रॉयल सोसाइटी से निष्कासित किया जाएगा?

Royal Society's Crisis

रॉयल सोसाइटी का संकट

- The Royal Society, a 365-year-old prestigious scientific institution in Britain, is facing a crisis regarding the membership of Elon Musk.
ब्रिटेन की 365 साल पुरानी प्रतिष्ठित वैज्ञानिक संस्था, रॉयल सोसाइटी, एलन मस्क की सदस्यता को लेकर संकट का सामना कर रही है।



- Notable past fellows include **Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Stephen Hawking.**
इसके पूर्व प्रसिद्ध सदस्य आइजैक न्यूटन, चार्ल्स डार्विन, अल्बर्ट आइंस्टीन और स्टीफन हॉकिंग रहे हैं।
- **Becoming a fellow of the Royal Society is considered a prestigious achievement after a rigorous selection process.**
रॉयल सोसाइटी का फेलो बनना कठोर चयन प्रक्रिया के बाद एक प्रतिष्ठित उपलब्धि मानी जाती है।
- The Society imposes a **code of conduct** on its fellows, and Musk is accused of **violating this code.**
संस्था अपने सदस्यों पर आचार संहिता लागू करती है, और मस्क पर इस संहिता का उल्लंघन करने का आरोप है।

Who Is Demanding Musk's Removal?

मस्क के निष्कासन की मांग कौन कर रहा है?

- In **1775, German scientist Rudolf Erich Raspe was expelled for fraud and breach of trust.**
1775 में, जर्मन वैज्ञानिक रुडोल्फ एरिच रास्पे को धोखाधड़ी और विश्वासघात के आरोप में निष्कासित कर दिया गया था।
- **Today, scientists argue that Musk is a "threat to science".**
आज, वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि मस्क "विज्ञान के लिए खतरा" हैं।
- **Dorothy Bishop, an emeritus professor at Oxford, was the first to resign over the issue.**
ऑक्सफोर्ड विश्वविद्यालय की एमेरिटस प्रोफेसर डोरोथी बिशप इस मुद्दे पर इस्तीफा देने वाली पहली सदस्य थीं।
- She **filed two complaints in 2024**, but the Royal Society **sought legal consultation** before taking any action.
उन्होंने 2024 में दो शिकायतें दर्ज कराईं, लेकिन रॉयल सोसाइटी ने कानूनी परामर्श लिया और कोई त्वरित निर्णय नहीं लिया।
- **Andrew Millar of the University of Edinburgh resigned in February 2025 over the same issue.**
एडिनबर्ग विश्वविद्यालय के एंड्रयू मिलर ने फरवरी 2025 में इसी कारण इस्तीफा दिया।
- **An open letter to the Royal Society's president, Adrian Smith, has been signed by nearly 3,500 scientists.**
रॉयल सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष, एड्रियन स्मिथ को लिखे गए एक खुले पत्र पर लगभग 3,500 वैज्ञानिकों ने हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।
- **Stephen Curry, a professor at Imperial College London, expressed similar concerns.**
इम्पीरियल कॉलेज लंदन के प्रोफेसर स्टीफन करी ने भी इसी तरह की चिंताओं को व्यक्त किया।
- **Geoffrey Hinton, an AI pioneer and 2024 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, supported Musk's removal, citing damage to scientific institutions in the U.S..**



एआई विशेषज्ञ और 2024 के भौतिकी नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता जियोफ्रे हिन्टन ने मस्क के निष्कासन का समर्थन किया, यह कहते हुए कि उन्होंने अमेरिका में वैज्ञानिक संस्थानों को नुकसान पहुंचाया है।

Musk's Response

मस्क की प्रतिक्रिया

- In response to criticism, **Musk dismissed the Royal Society's significance.** आलोचनाओं के जवाब में, मस्क ने रॉयल सोसाइटी के महत्व को खारिज कर दिया।
- He wrote on X (formerly Twitter):
 - "Only craven, insecure fools care about awards and memberships."
उन्होंने X (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर लिखा:
 - "केवल डरपोक और असुरक्षित मूर्ख ही पुरस्कारों और सदस्यता की परवाह करते हैं।"

Why Is the Royal Society Hesitant?

रॉयल सोसाइटी झिझक क्यों रही है?

- The **Royal Society is cautious** about being seen as making a "political decision." रॉयल सोसाइटी इस मामले को "राजनीतिक निर्णय" के रूप में देखे जाने से बच रही है।
- Lawyers have advised **against immediate expulsion**, fearing **legal action from Musk.** वकीलों ने तत्काल निष्कासन से बचने की सलाह दी है, क्योंकि मस्क कानूनी कार्रवाई कर सकते हैं।
- The Society has **historically avoided political controversies** and prefers **internal resolutions.** संस्था ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से राजनीतिक विवादों से दूरी बनाए रखी है और आंतरिक समाधान पसंद करती है।

Why Was Musk Given Membership?

मस्क को सदस्यता क्यों दी गई थी?

- **Musk was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society in 2018, recognizing his contributions to space exploration (SpaceX) and electric vehicles (Tesla).** मस्क को 2018 में रॉयल सोसाइटी का फेलो चुना गया, उनके अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण (स्पेसएक्स) और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (टेस्ला) में योगदान को मान्यता देते हुए।
- At the time, his **technological achievements** were seen as **aligning with scientific advancement.** उस समय, उनके तकनीकी नवाचारों को वैज्ञानिक प्रगति के अनुरूप माना गया।
- However, recent **controversies and alleged misinformation** have led many to **question his suitability as a fellow.**



हालांकि, हाल की विवादास्पद घटनाओं और कथित गलत सूचनाओं के कारण उनकी सदस्यता पर सवाल उठने लगे हैं।

Conclusion: Will Musk Be Expelled?

निष्कर्ष: क्या मस्क को निष्कासित किया जाएगा?

- The demand for Musk's removal is growing, with scientists resigning and signing petitions.
मस्क के निष्कासन की मांग बढ़ रही है, और वैज्ञानिक इस्तीफा दे रहे हैं व याचिकाओं पर हस्ताक्षर कर रहे हैं।
- The Royal Society is hesitant, fearing legal consequences and political implications.
रॉयल सोसाइटी झिझक रही है, क्योंकि उसे कानूनी परिणामों और राजनीतिक प्रभावों का डर है।
- Musk's own dismissive response indicates that he may not contest the decision if expelled.
मस्क की खुद की उपेक्षात्मक प्रतिक्रिया दर्शाती है कि यदि उन्हें निष्कासित किया जाता है, तो वे इसे चुनौती नहीं दे सकते।
- The final decision will depend on whether the **Royal Society prioritizes its ethical code over legal risks**.
अंतिम निर्णय इस पर निर्भर करेगा कि रॉयल सोसाइटी अपने नैतिक संहिता को कानूनी जोखिमों से अधिक प्राथमिकता देती है या नहीं।



Immigration and Foreigners Bill not connected to grant of citizenship, says official

GS Paper II: Immigration Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 was introduced in Parliament, a government official clarified that the legislation is not connected with any matters related to grant of citizenship.

The official said the Bill was a comprehensive legislation to regulate all matters relating to foreigners and immigration that are currently administered through four Acts – the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. The four Acts are proposed to be repealed.

The official said the Bill retained several provisions in the four Acts, and it also

Move to ensure better compliance of foreigners with the immigration laws

had certain new provisions to meet the present-day requirements. This Bill was in line with the Government of India's policy of simplification of laws, ease of doing business and minimising compliance burden.

"Key provisions in the Bill include mandatory requirement of valid travel documents for entry into, stay in and exit from India, constitution of a Bureau of Immigration, power for deportation of illegal foreigners from India, mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities and educational institutions and hospi-

tals, nursing homes etc. to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners, obligation of carriers to share information on passengers as per international practices, compounding of certain offences to enable ease of compliance burden," the official said.

The simplified language in the Bill was likely to help in smooth administration of the provisions and ensure better compliance of foreigners with the immigration laws. "It will provide adequate legal backing to immigration functions, its agencies and functionaries, help in tackling the problem of illegal migration into India and facilitate tracking of movement of overstaying foreigners in India. It will also help in reducing the compliance burden," the official said.

- The Bill aims to **regulate matters related to foreigners and immigration, replacing four existing Acts.**

यह विधेयक विदेशियों और आप्रवासन से संबंधित मामलों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए बनाया गया है, और चार मौजूदा कानूनों को प्रतिस्थापित करेगा।

Acts to Be Repealed

जो अधिनियम रद्द किए जाएंगे

- The **four Acts that will be repealed:**
 - Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920
 - Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939
 - Foreigners Act, 1946
 - Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000

जो चार अधिनियम रद्द किए जाएंगे:

Immigration and Foreigners Bill Not Connected to Grant of Citizenship: Official

आप्रवासन और विदेशी विधेयक

नागरिकता प्रदान करने से संबंधित

नहीं: अधिकारी

Clarification on the Immigration and Foreigners Bill

आप्रवासन और विदेशी विधेयक पर

स्पष्टीकरण

- A government official clarified that the **Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025**, introduced in Parliament, is **not related to the grant of citizenship.**

सरकारी अधिकारी ने स्पष्ट किया कि 2025 का

आप्रवासन और विदेशी विधेयक, जो संसद में पेश

किया गया, नागरिकता प्रदान करने से संबंधित नहीं

है।



- पासपोर्ट (भारत में प्रवेश) अधिनियम, 1920
- विदेशियों का पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1939
- विदेशी अधिनियम, 1946
- आप्रवासन (वाहक देयता) अधिनियम, 2000

Key Features of the Bill

विधेयक की प्रमुख विशेषताएँ

- **Mandatory requirement of valid travel documents for entry, stay, and exit from India.**
भारत में प्रवेश, प्रवास और निकास के लिए वैध यात्रा दस्तावेज अनिवार्य होंगे।
- **Establishment of a Bureau of Immigration** to monitor and regulate immigration effectively.
आप्रवासन की निगरानी और नियंत्रण के लिए 'आप्रवासन ब्यूरो' की स्थापना की जाएगी।
- **Power to deport illegal foreigners from India.**
अवैध विदेशियों को भारत से निर्वासित करने का अधिकार।
- **Mandatory reporting of foreigner information** by:
 - Hotels, universities, educational institutions, hospitals, and nursing homes.
 - Helps in tracking overstaying foreigners.विदेशियों की जानकारी देने की अनिवार्यता:
 - होटल, विश्वविद्यालय, शैक्षणिक संस्थान, अस्पताल और नर्सिंग होम।
 - इससे अवैध रूप से ठहरे विदेशियों की निगरानी में मदद मिलेगी।
- **Obligation of airlines and transport carriers to share passenger data as per international norms.**
एयरलाइंस और परिवहन वाहकों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुसार यात्रियों की जानकारी साझा करनी होगी।
- **Compounding of certain offenses to reduce compliance burden.**
कुछ अपराधों को निपटाने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाया जाएगा।

Objective of the Bill

विधेयक का उद्देश्य

- The Bill is in line with the Government of India's policy of:
 - Simplifying laws
 - Improving ease of doing business
 - Reducing compliance burdenयह विधेयक भारत सरकार की नीति के अनुसार तैयार किया गया है:
 - कानूनों को सरल बनाना
 - व्यवसाय करने में सुगमता बढ़ाना



- अनुपालन बोझ को कम करना
- **Simplified language** in the Bill will help in **better administration and compliance** with immigration laws.
सरल भाषा के कारण प्रावधानों का बेहतर प्रशासन और अनुपालन सुनिश्चित किया जा सकेगा।
- It will **strengthen legal backing** for immigration functions and help in **tracking illegal migration**.
यह आप्रवासन कार्यों के लिए कानूनी आधार मजबूत करेगा और अवैध प्रवासन की निगरानी में सहायता करेगा।
- **Ensures smooth regulation** of foreigner movement while **minimizing compliance difficulties**.
यह विदेशियों की आवाजाही को सुचारू रूप से विनियमित करेगा और अनुपालन की कठिनाइयों को कम करेगा।

Conclusion: A Step Towards Efficient Immigration Management

निष्कर्ष: प्रभावी आप्रवासन प्रबंधन की दिशा में एक कदम

- The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 aims to **replace outdated laws, improve foreigner tracking, and enhance security**.
2025 का आप्रवासन और विदेशी विधेयक पुराने कानूनों को बदलने, विदेशियों की निगरानी बढ़ाने और सुरक्षा मजबूत करने का प्रयास करता है।
- The Bill is **not linked to citizenship** but **focuses on immigration regulation and deportation of illegal foreigners**.
यह विधेयक नागरिकता से संबंधित नहीं है, बल्कि आप्रवासन विनियमन और अवैध विदेशियों के निर्वासन पर केंद्रित है।
- The **implementation of this Bill** will play a crucial role in **strengthening India's immigration policies**.
इस विधेयक का कार्यान्वयन भारत की आप्रवासन नीतियों को मजबूत करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा।



Centre asks Gujarat court to serve U.S. summons on Adani

Request for service of summons received from Central Authority USA under **Hague Convention**; case against industrialist for alleged bribery

GS Paper II: Hague Convention

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Union Law and Justice Ministry in February forwarded a summons from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to a sessions court in Ahmedabad for it to be served on industrialist Gautam Adani at his address in the city, the Union government confirmed to *The Hindu*.

“Under consideration is a request for service of summons received from the Central Authority USA, under the Hague Convention for Service of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil and Commercial Matters, 1965,” the government said in an internal note provided to *The Hindu*. “The documents have been checked and found to be in consonance with the Hague Convention. We may, if approved, forward the documents to the District & Sessions



Gautam Adani

Court, Ahmedabad, Gujarat for effecting service upon the respondent.”

The letter to the sessions court is dated February 25. The Hague Convention allows a signatory country to directly request an agency in another country for assistance in serving legal papers for cases filed abroad.

In conjunction with federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York, the SEC sued Mr. Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, in their capacities as executives of Adani

Green Ltd, for allegedly concealing from American investors “the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Indian government officials to secure their commitment to purchase energy at above-market rates that would benefit Adani green and Azure Power”, a solar energy plant operator. The case is ongoing at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

While the lawsuit led to considerable uncertainty for the Adani Group, the firm is reportedly acting on hope that the new administration in the U.S. under President Donald Trump – which has paused all enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, 1977 – would lead to less movement in the legal matters against Mr. Adani. The *Financial Times* reported recently that the Adani Group has resumed scouting for business opportunities in the U.S.

Centre Asks Gujarat Court to Serve U.S. Summons on Adani

केंद्र ने गुजरात कोर्ट से अदानी को अमेरिकी समन देने को कहा

U.S. Summons Forwarded to Ahmedabad Court

अमेरिकी समन अहमदाबाद कोर्ट को भेजा गया

- The Union Law and Justice Ministry confirmed that in February 2025, it forwarded a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) summons to an Ahmedabad sessions court for service on industrialist Gautam Adani.

केंद्रीय कानून और न्याय मंत्रालय ने पुष्टि की कि फरवरी 2025 में उसने यू.एस. सिक्योरिटीज एंड एक्सचेंज कमीशन (SEC) का समन अहमदाबाद सत्र न्यायालय को उद्योगपति गौतम अदानी को सौंपने के लिए भेजा।

- The request came from the U.S. Central Authority under the Hague Convention for Service of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil and Commercial Matters, 1965.

यह अनुरोध अमेरिका के केंद्रीय प्राधिकरण से आया, जो

1965 के हेग सम्मेलन (न्यायिक और अ-न्यायिक दस्तावेजों की सेवा से संबंधित) के तहत किया गया था।

- The government verified the documents and found them in compliance with the Hague Convention before forwarding them to the District & Sessions Court, Ahmedabad.

सरकार ने दस्तावेजों की जांच की और उन्हें हेग सम्मेलन के अनुरूप पाया, जिसके बाद इन्हें अहमदाबाद जिला एवं सत्र न्यायालय को भेज दिया गया।

Allegations Against Gautam Adani

गौतम अदानी पर लगाए गए आरोप

- The SEC, along with U.S. federal prosecutors in New York, has filed a lawsuit against Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani.



SEC और न्यूयॉर्क में अमेरिकी संघीय अभियोजकों ने गौतम अदानी और उनके भतीजे सागर अदानी के खिलाफ मुकदमा दायर किया है।

- The allegations state that Adani executives **concealed bribes worth hundreds of millions of dollars** to Indian officials.

आरोपों के अनुसार, अदानी अधिकारियों ने भारतीय अधिकारियों को सैकड़ों मिलियन डॉलर की रिश्वत देने की बात छुपाई।

- The **bribes were allegedly given to secure above-market energy contracts, benefiting Adani Green Ltd and Azure Power, a solar energy company.**

रिश्वत कथित रूप से ऊँची दरों पर ऊर्जा खरीद सुनिश्चित करने के लिए दी गई, जिससे अदानी ग्रीन लिमिटेड और एज़योर पावर को फायदा हुआ।

- The case is currently **ongoing at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.**

यह मामला न्यूयॉर्क के ईस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोर्ट में चल रहा है।

Legal and Business Impact on Adani Group

अदानी समूह पर कानूनी और व्यावसायिक प्रभाव

- The lawsuit has **created uncertainty for the Adani Group**, impacting investor confidence.

इस मुकदमे ने अदानी समूह के लिए अनिश्चितता पैदा कर दी है, जिससे निवेशकों का भरोसा प्रभावित हुआ है।

- The **Financial Times reported** that the Adani Group is hopeful that the new **Donald Trump administration** in the U.S. may **halt enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), 1977.**

फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, अदानी समूह आशान्वित है कि अमेरिका में डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के नए प्रशासन के तहत विदेशी भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम (FCPA), 1977 को लागू करने पर रोक लग सकती है।

- The Adani Group has reportedly **resumed scouting for business opportunities in the U.S.**

अदानी समूह ने कथित तौर पर अमेरिका में व्यावसायिक अवसरों की खोज फिर से शुरू कर दी है।

Conclusion: A Crucial Legal Battle for Adani Group

निष्कर्ष: अदानी समूह के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कानूनी लड़ाई

- The **U.S. SEC case against Gautam Adani** is a major legal challenge, with potential impacts on **business operations and international reputation.**

गौतम अदानी के खिलाफ अमेरिकी SEC का मामला एक बड़ी कानूनी चुनौती है, जिसका प्रभाव व्यवसाय संचालन और अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिष्ठा पर पड़ सकता है।



- The Indian government's role in serving the U.S. summons indicates global cooperation in legal matters.

भारतीय सरकार द्वारा अमेरिकी समन की सेवा में भूमिका निभाना वैश्विक कानूनी सहयोग को दर्शाता है।

In Rajya Sabha, Trinamool calls for short discussion on duplicate EPICs next week

GS Paper II: Election Commission

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Wednesday paused its protest in the Rajya Sabha on the issue of duplication of elector photo identity cards (EPIC) and the delimitation exercise for a day. The Trinamool Congress called for a short discussion on the voter ID issue next week.

In a sign of thaw between the Union government and the Opposition in the Upper House, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Kumar Jha presented his concerns on the voter id issue during the Zero Hour, when members can raise issues of national importance.

In a democracy, it is not enough to have regular elections, it is equally essential that the body conducting these elections appears to be fair, Mr. Jha said. "This [Parliament] is the temple of democracy and democracy thrives because of elections. If the procedure and process of



If the procedure and process of election is compromised and there is a smell of fraud therein then nothing will be left

MANOJ KUMAR JHA
RJD MP

election is compromised and there is a smell of fraud therein, then nothing will be left," Mr. Jha said.

'Matter of concern'

He said that each EPIC issued by the Election Commission carried a 10-digit number. The first three digits of the number signified the Assembly constituency. It is a matter of concern that voters from different States have the same number, he said.

Mr. Jha demanded that the EC determine the extent of the problem, investigate from where the fraud started, and take urgent corrective measures.

He said the EC should issue a separate list detailing voter deletions, new additions and modifications. "Whenever apprehensions are aired, they have to be addressed... Serious questions have to be answered and responded to in a serious manner," Mr. Jha said.

Earlier, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari and Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien spoke on the issue.

"There are at least seven or eight Opposition parties, why don't you take up a discussion under Rule 176 (short duration) discussion. We are not here to disrupt the House," Mr. O'Brien said.

In Rajya Sabha, Trinamool calls for short discussion on duplicate EPICs next week

राज्यसभा में, तृणमूल ने अगले सप्ताह डुप्लीकेट EPICs पर लघु चर्चा की मांग की

The Opposition paused its protest in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday regarding duplication of elector photo identity cards (EPIC) and the delimitation exercise for a day.

विपक्ष ने बुधवार को राज्यसभा में मतदाता फोटो पहचान पत्र (EPIC) की नकल और परिसीमन अभ्यास के मुद्दे पर अपने विरोध को एक दिन के लिए रोक दिया।

- The Trinamool Congress called for a short discussion on the voter ID issue next week.

तृणमूल कांग्रेस ने अगले सप्ताह मतदाता पहचान पत्र के मुद्दे पर लघु चर्चा की मांग की।

Concerns raised during Zero Hour

शून्यकाल के दौरान उठाई गई चिंताएँ

- In a sign of thaw between the Union government and the Opposition, RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha raised his concerns on the voter ID issue during Zero Hour.



केंद्र सरकार और विपक्ष के बीच तनाव में कमी के संकेत के रूप में, राजद नेता मनोज कुमार झा ने शून्यकाल के दौरान मतदाता पहचान पत्र के मुद्दे पर अपनी चिंताओं को व्यक्त किया।

- He stated that in a democracy, **regular elections are not enough**, it is equally essential that the **body conducting elections appears to be fair**.

उन्होंने कहा कि लोकतंत्र में, नियमित चुनाव कराना ही पर्याप्त नहीं है, बल्कि यह भी आवश्यक है कि चुनाव कराने वाली संस्था निष्पक्ष दिखाई दे।

- “This [Parliament] is the temple of democracy and democracy thrives because of elections.”

"यह [संसद] लोकतंत्र का मंदिर है और लोकतंत्र चुनावों के कारण ही जीवित रहता है।"

- If the **procedure and process of elections are compromised** and there is a **smell of fraud**, then **nothing will be left**.

यदि चुनाव की प्रक्रिया और प्रणाली में कोई गड़बड़ी होती है और उसमें धोखाधड़ी की आशंका होती है, तो कुछ भी नहीं बचेगा।

Duplicate EPICs: A matter of concern

डुप्लीकेट EPICs: एक गंभीर चिंता का विषय

- Each EPIC issued by the Election Commission carries a **10-digit number**.
चुनाव आयोग द्वारा जारी प्रत्येक EPIC में 10 अंकों का नंबर होता है।
- The **first three digits signify the Assembly constituency**, but it is concerning that **voters from different States have the same number**.
पहले तीन अंक विधानसभा क्षेत्र को दर्शाते हैं, लेकिन यह चिंता का विषय है कि **अलग-अलग राज्यों के मतदाताओं के पास एक ही नंबर है**।
- **Mr. Jha demanded that the Election Commission determine the extent of the problem**, investigate its origin, and **take urgent corrective measures**.
श्री झा ने चुनाव आयोग से इस समस्या की गंभीरता का पता लगाने, इसके स्रोत की जांच करने और तत्काल सुधारात्मक कदम उठाने की मांग की।
- He also suggested that the **EC should issue a separate list detailing voter deletions, new additions, and modifications**.
उन्होंने यह भी सुझाव दिया कि चुनाव आयोग को मतदाता हटाने, नए जोड़ने और संशोधनों का एक अलग सूची जारी करनी चाहिए।
- **Serious questions have to be answered in a serious manner**, he said.
गंभीर प्रश्नों का गंभीरता से उत्तर दिया जाना चाहिए, उन्होंने कहा।

Opposition demands discussion under Rule 176

विपक्ष ने नियम 176 के तहत चर्चा की मांग की



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Congress leader Pramod Tiwari and Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien also spoke on the issue.
कांग्रेस नेता प्रमोद तिवारी और तृणमूल नेता डेरेक ओ'ब्रायन ने भी इस मुद्दे पर अपनी बात रखी।
- O'Brien suggested a short-duration discussion under Rule 176, saying that they were not there to disrupt the House.
ओ'ब्रायन ने नियम 176 के तहत लघु अवधि की चर्चा का सुझाव दिया, यह कहते हुए कि वे सदन को बाधित करने के लिए नहीं आए हैं।
- He pointed out that at least seven or eight Opposition parties were interested in the discussion.
उन्होंने बताया कि कम से कम सात या आठ विपक्षी दल इस चर्चा में रुचि रखते हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Indian Railways to dig ponds under govt.'s Mission Amrit Sarovar

GS Paper II: Government Schemes

CHENNAI

The Indian Railways will dig ponds as part of the Union government's Mission Amrit Sarovar that aims to address the critical issue of water scarcity in the country.



The mission was launched with goal of constructing 75 ponds in each district of the country.

Amrit Sarovar was launched in April 2022 with the ambitious goal of constructing or rejuvenating 75 ponds in each district of the country. The project made significant progress and as of October 2024, more than 68,000 ponds have been completed, rejuvenating surface and groundwater availability in various regions. These ponds have not only addressed immediate water needs but also established sustainable water resources.

Phase 2 of the mission was launched with a renewed focus on ensuring water availability, with community participation (Jan Bhagidaari) at its core. It aims to strengthen climate resilience, foster ecological balance, and deliver lasting benefits for future generations.

As part of these initiatives, the government roped in the Railways for desilting, excavating identified waterbodies or constructing new ones at suitable

sites in the vicinity of railway lines.

Railway authorities were told to request the respective district authorities to identify possible sites for the creation of new waterbodies near railway work sites.

The excavated material would be used in railway embankments, wherever the quality of the soil is found suitable for rail construction.

The Railways would work in close coordination with the Rural Development Ministry.

The Union government has sent letters to the Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories on the role of the Railways in Mission Amrit Sarovar, sources said, adding that a substantial number of ponds would be rejuvenated or constructed by August 15.

Indian Railways to dig ponds under govt.'s Mission Amrit Sarovar

सरकार के मिशन अमृत सरोवर के तहत भारतीय रेलवे तालाब खोदेगा

Indian Railways will dig ponds as part of the Union government's Mission Amrit Sarovar to address water scarcity in the country.

भारतीय रेलवे देश में जल संकट का समाधान करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार के मिशन अमृत सरोवर के तहत तालाब खोदेगा।

• Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched in April 2022 with the goal of constructing or rejuvenating 75 ponds in each district.

मिशन अमृत सरोवर अप्रैल 2022 में शुरू किया गया था, जिसका लक्ष्य हर जिले में 75 तालाबों का निर्माण या पुनर्जीवन करना था।

Progress of Mission Amrit Sarovar मिशन अमृत सरोवर की प्रगति

• As of October 2024, more than 68,000 ponds have been completed, improving surface and groundwater availability. अक्टूबर 2024 तक, 68,000 से अधिक तालाबों का निर्माण पूरा हो चुका है, जिससे भूमि और भूजल की उपलब्धता में सुधार हुआ है।

• These ponds not only addressed immediate water needs but also established sustainable water resources. इन तालाबों ने तत्काल जल आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के साथ-साथ टिकाऊ जल संसाधन भी स्थापित किए।

Phase 2 of the mission मिशन का दूसरा चरण

- Phase 2 of Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched with a focus on ensuring water availability with community participation (Jan Bhagidaari).



मिशन अमृत सरोवर का दूसरा चरण शुरू किया गया, जिसमें सामुदायिक भागीदारी (जन भागीदारी) के साथ जल उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने पर जोर दिया गया।

- It aims to **strengthen climate resilience, foster ecological balance, and provide lasting benefits** for future generations.

इसका उद्देश्य जलवायु सहनशीलता को मजबूत करना, पारिस्थितिक संतुलन बनाए रखना और भविष्य की पीढ़ियों को दीर्घकालिक लाभ प्रदान करना है।

Role of Railways in the Mission

मिशन में रेलवे की भूमिका

- The government has involved Indian Railways for **desilting, excavating waterbodies, and constructing new ones near railway lines.**
सरकार ने भारतीय रेलवे को जलाशयों की गाद निकालने, खुदाई करने और रेलवे लाइनों के पास नए जलाशय बनाने के लिए शामिल किया है।
- **Railway authorities will coordinate with district authorities to identify suitable sites for new ponds near railway worksites.**
रेलवे प्राधिकरण जिला प्रशासन के साथ समन्वय करके रेलवे कार्य स्थलों के पास नए तालाबों के लिए उपयुक्त स्थानों की पहचान करेगा।
- The **excavated soil will be used for railway embankments** if it meets construction quality standards.
खुदाई की गई मिट्टी का उपयोग रेलवे तटबंधों के निर्माण में किया जाएगा, यदि उसकी गुणवत्ता निर्माण मानकों के अनुरूप होगी।

Government's directives to States and Union Territories

राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को सरकार के निर्देश

- The **Union government has sent letters to Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories regarding the role of Railways in Mission Amrit Sarovar.**
केंद्र सरकार ने सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के मुख्य सचिवों को पत्र भेजे हैं, जिसमें मिशन अमृत सरोवर में रेलवे की भूमिका का उल्लेख किया गया है।



- A substantial number of ponds will be rejuvenated or constructed by August 15.
15 अगस्त तक बड़ी संख्या में तालाबों का पुनर्जीवन किया जाएगा या नए तालाब बनाए जाएंगे।

APAAR ID system voluntary, but activists and parents raise concern over growing mandates

GS Paper II: APAAR IDs

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Parents and activists worry that it could become near-impossible to opt out of the Education Ministry's Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID for school students, though enrolment is supposed to be voluntary.

The APAAR ID ties into DigiLocker and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), which the government hopes to use to standardise students' school transcripts in a uniform way as a "single source of truth".

However, the APAAR ID system has drawn scrutiny on data privacy and necessity grounds. While the Education Ministry has said in a document on its website that getting an APAAR ID is not mandatory, the Central Board of Se-

condary Education (CBSE) told schools in a circular in January that it expects them "to ensure 100% saturation of APAAR IDs for all students", a directive that many schools have taken as a mandate.

APAAR IDs are linked to Aadhaar, and some parents who are willing to enrol their children have reported issues linking the students' Aadhaar with APAAR, due to spelling mismatch between their name in school records and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) database. Such parents must be referred to a Common Service Centre to update children's documents, the CBSE said in its January circular.

"The APAAR ID system presents significant risks, especially in the collection and handling of minors' sensitive data, including



APAAR presents certain risks, especially in the collection of minors' sensitive data.

personal and academic information, without adequate legal safeguards or robust data protection measures," the Internet Freedom Foundation, a Delhi-based advocacy group, wrote in December. The Education Ministry has admitted that there is no law to mandate APAAR IDs for parents who do not want to enroll their children in the registry.

Another advocacy

group, the Software Freedom Law Centre, India, has published a form that parents can use to inform schools that APAAR is not mandatory, to persuade school administrations that enrolment cannot be compelled. Sandeep Hegde, a Bengaluru-based parent, pushed back against APAAR at his child's school, and was able to get the school to back off from the request, at least for him.

But recent steps at the State level may make it harder for schools to listen to parents in these cases.

U.P. decision

In Uttar Pradesh, the Director-General of School Education indicated last week that it was using APAAR to find discrepancy in school enrolment records, and that it would hold officials responsible if

major changes were found. In another case in Bahraich district, madrasas which did not enrol their students were warned that they would be de-recognised if they did not start APAAR enrolment.

Making such an ID mandatory in schools "directly contradicts the Supreme Court ruling in *K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India* [2019 (1) SCC 1], which held that Aadhaar – an essential requirement for obtaining an APAAR ID – cannot be mandatory for access to basic education," advocate Apar Gupta, IFF's founder director said.

"Such coercive measures by the government – both at the Central and State level – puts immense pressure on parents as otherwise they may risk losing educational benefits or even accessing education completely."

APAAR ID system voluntary, but activists and parents raise concern over growing mandates

APAAR आईडी प्रणाली स्वैच्छिक, लेकिन कार्यकर्ता और अभिभावक बढ़ते अनिवार्य नियमों पर चिंता जता रहे हैं

Parents and activists worry that it could become nearly impossible to opt out of the Education Ministry's APAAR ID for school students, despite enrolment being officially voluntary.

अभिभावकों और कार्यकर्ताओं को चिंता है कि भले ही शिक्षा मंत्रालय की APAAR आईडी नामांकन को स्वैच्छिक बताया गया हो, लेकिन इससे बाहर निकलना लगभग असंभव हो सकता है।



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- The APAAR ID is linked to DigiLocker and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), which the government hopes to use to standardize students' school transcripts as a "single source of truth".

APAAR आईडी को DigiLocker और Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) से जोड़ा गया है, जिसे सरकार छात्रों की स्कूल मार्कशीट को मानकीकृत करने के लिए एक "एकमात्र सत्य स्रोत" के रूप में उपयोग करने की योजना बना रही है।

Concerns over data privacy and necessity

डेटा गोपनीयता और आवश्यकता को लेकर चिंताएँ

- The APAAR ID system has drawn scrutiny over data privacy concerns and its necessity.
APAAR आईडी प्रणाली पर डेटा गोपनीयता और इसकी आवश्यकता को लेकर सवाल उठाए गए हैं।
- While the Education Ministry has stated on its website that APAAR is not mandatory, the CBSE issued a circular in January stating that schools must ensure 100% saturation of APAAR IDs for all students.
हालांकि शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने अपनी वेबसाइट पर कहा है कि APAAR अनिवार्य नहीं है, लेकिन CBSE ने जनवरी में एक परिपत्र जारी किया, जिसमें कहा गया कि सभी छात्रों के लिए 100% APAAR आईडी सुनिश्चित की जानी चाहिए।
- Many schools have interpreted this directive as a mandate.
कई स्कूलों ने इस निर्देश को एक अनिवार्य नियम के रूप में लिया है।

Challenges with Aadhaar linking

आधार लिंक करने में आ रही समस्याएँ

- APAAR IDs are linked to Aadhaar, and some parents willing to enroll their children have faced issues due to spelling mismatches between school records and the UIDAI database.
APAAR आईडी को आधार से जोड़ा गया है, और कुछ अभिभावकों को स्कूल रिकॉर्ड और UIDAI डेटाबेस में नाम की वर्तनी भिन्न होने के कारण समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ा।
- The CBSE's January circular stated that such parents must visit a Common Service Centre to update documents.
CBSE के जनवरी परिपत्र में कहा गया कि ऐसे अभिभावकों को बच्चों के दस्तावेज़ अपडेट करने के लिए कॉमन सर्विस सेंटर जाना होगा।

Criticism from advocacy groups

सामाजिक संगठनों की आलोचना



- The Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), a Delhi-based advocacy group, warned in December that the APAAR ID system presents significant risks in collecting and handling minors' sensitive data.

दिल्ली स्थित संगठन Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) ने दिसंबर में चेतावनी दी थी कि APAAR आईडी प्रणाली नाबालिगों के संवेदनशील डेटा को एकत्रित और प्रबंधित करने में गंभीर जोखिम पैदा करती है।

- The group highlighted the lack of adequate legal safeguards or robust data protection measures.
IFF ने यह भी बताया कि इस प्रणाली में पर्याप्त कानूनी सुरक्षा उपायों और मजबूत डेटा सुरक्षा नियमों की कमी है।
- The Education Ministry has admitted that there is no law mandating APAAR IDs for parents who do not wish to enroll their children.
शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने स्वीकार किया है कि ऐसा कोई कानून नहीं है जो अभिभावकों को APAAR आईडी लेने के लिए बाध्य करता हो।

Resistance from parents and advocacy groups

अभिभावकों और सामाजिक संगठनों का विरोध

- The Software Freedom Law Centre, India, has published a form that parents can use to inform schools that APAAR is not mandatory.
Software Freedom Law Centre, India ने एक फॉर्म जारी किया है, जिसे अभिभावक स्कूलों को सूचित करने के लिए उपयोग कर सकते हैं कि APAAR अनिवार्य नहीं है।
- Sandeep Hegde, a parent from Bengaluru, successfully persuaded his child's school to back off from requiring APAAR ID.
बेंगलुरु के एक अभिभावक संदीप हेगड़े ने अपने बच्चे के स्कूल को APAAR आईडी की मांग से पीछे हटने के लिए राजी कर लिया।
- However, recent steps at the State level may make it harder for schools to listen to parents in such cases.
हालांकि, राज्य स्तर पर हाल ही में उठाए गए कदमों के कारण, स्कूलों के लिए अभिभावकों की बात सुनना कठिन हो सकता है।
U.P. decision
उत्तर प्रदेश का निर्णय
- In Uttar Pradesh, the Director-General of School Education indicated last week that APAAR was being used to find discrepancies in school enrolment records.
उत्तर प्रदेश में, स्कूल शिक्षा के महानिदेशक ने पिछले सप्ताह संकेत दिया कि स्कूल नामांकन रिकॉर्ड में विसंगतियों का पता लगाने के लिए APAAR का उपयोग किया जा रहा है।
- Officials would be held responsible if major changes were found in enrolment records.
अगर नामांकन रिकॉर्ड में बड़े बदलाव पाए जाते हैं, तो अधिकारियों को जिम्मेदार ठहराया जाएगा।



Madrasas warned in Bahraich district

बहराइच जिले में मदरसों को चेतावनी

- In Bahraich district, madrasas that did not enrol students in APAAR were warned that they would be **de-recognised** if they did not start the enrolment process.
बहराइच जिले में, जिन मदरसों ने अपने छात्रों का APAAR में नामांकन नहीं कराया, उन्हें अमान्यता प्राप्त करने की चेतावनी दी गई।

Legal concerns over mandatory APAAR

अनिवार्य APAAR को लेकर कानूनी चिंताएँ

- Making such an ID mandatory in schools contradicts the Supreme Court ruling in **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India [2019 (1) SCC 1]**.
स्कूलों में इस आईडी को अनिवार्य बनाना सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले (K.S. Puttaswamy बनाम भारत संघ [2019 (1) SCC 1]) का उल्लंघन करता है।
- The ruling stated that **Aadhaar — which is required for APAAR — cannot be mandatory for access to basic education**.
इस फैसले में कहा गया था कि आधार — जो APAAR के लिए आवश्यक है — को बुनियादी शिक्षा के लिए अनिवार्य नहीं बनाया जा सकता।

Impact on parents and students

अभिभावकों और छात्रों पर प्रभाव

- IFF founder-director **Apar Gupta** criticized these measures, stating that such **coercive actions by the government create immense pressure on parents**.
IFF के संस्थापक निदेशक अपार गुप्ता ने इन उपायों की आलोचना करते हुए कहा कि सरकार द्वारा इस तरह के दमनकारी कदम अभिभावकों पर भारी दबाव डालते हैं।

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

1. Retail Inflation at 7-Month Low as Food Prices Decline / खाद्य कीमतों में गिरावट के कारण खुदरा महंगाई 7 महीने के निचले स्तर पर



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2. **Solapur Handloom Industry Struggles for Recognition, Buyers / सोलापुर हथकरघा उद्योग को पहचान और खरीदारों के लिए संघर्ष**
3. **Hydraulic Sludge Robot Deployed in SLBC Tunnel / एसएलबीसी सुरंग में हाइड्रोलिक स्लज रोबोट तैनात**
4. **A.P. Govt. to Consider Giving Pension to All Thalassemia Patients / आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार सभी थैलेसीमिया मरीजों को पेंशन देने पर विचार करेगी**
5. **What the Recent GDP Data Revisions Reveal / हालिया जीडीपी डेटा संशोधन क्या दर्शाते हैं**
6. **The Dangerous Illusion Cast by Development Rankings / विकास रैंकिंग द्वारा बनाई गई खतरनाक भ्रांति**
7. **Should India Focus on Its Global Image or Domestic Concerns? / क्या भारत को अपनी वैश्विक छवि पर ध्यान देना चाहिए या घरेलू मुद्दों पर?**
8. **Is the Government Stifling the Online Gaming Sector? / क्या सरकार ऑनलाइन गेमिंग सेक्टर को दबा रही है?**
9. **Parliamentary Panel Asks Centre to Spend More on Agriculture, Rename Ministry / संसदीय पैनल ने केंद्र से कृषि पर अधिक खर्च करने और मंत्रालय का नाम बदलने की सिफारिश की**
10. **Popularise Fortified Grain Scheme, Especially in States with Rice-Heavy Diets: Panel / किलेबंद अनाज योजना को विशेष रूप से चावल-प्रधान राज्यों में लोकप्रिय बनाएं: पैनल**



11. **Cong., DMK MPs Walk Out of LS Over Nod to Project Near Pakistan Border / पाकिस्तान सीमा के पास परियोजना को मंजूरी पर कांग्रेस, डीएमके सांसदों का लोकसभा से वाकआउट**
12. **Lok Sabha passes Bill to boost investments in oil and gas sector / तेल और गैस क्षेत्र में निवेश बढ़ाने के लिए लोकसभा ने विधेयक पारित किया**
13. **After Bharti, Jio allies with Musk's SpaceX for Starlink net services / भारती के बाद, जियो ने मस्क की स्पेसएक्स के साथ स्टारलिंग नेट सेवाओं के लिए साझेदारी की**
14. **Industrial output growth hastens to 8-month high of 5% / औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि 8 महीनों के उच्चतम स्तर 5% पर पहुंची**
15. **Feb. equity MF inflows plunge 27% on declining stock market returns / फरवरी में इक्विटी म्यूचुअल फंड में निवेश 27% गिरा, स्टॉक मार्केट में गिरावट जारी**
16. **The promise of mycelium bricks against climate change / जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ माइसेलियम ईंटों की संभावनाएँ**



Retail inflation at 7-month low as food prices decline

Consumer price inflation drops to 3.6% in February 2025; with growth slowing for the fourth straight month, inflation is now below RBI 4% target, increasing chances of a repo rate reduction

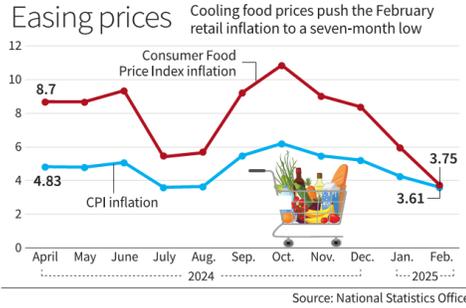
GS Paper III: Economy

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India's retail inflation dipped to a seven-month low of 3.6% as food prices eased in February 2025, led by vegetables, pulses, and eggs. The annual change in consumer prices was 4.26% in January 2025.

The increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the retail prices, has slowed for the fourth consecutive month and is now lower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target inflation of 4%. This increases the likelihood of another 0.25% repo rate cut by the RBI next month, say economists.

"There is a decline of 65 basis points in headline inflation of February 2025 in comparison with January



2025. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation after July 2024," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said, while releasing the CPI.

A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage.

The NSO data showed that the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) increased just 3.75% in February, the slowest in almost two years. CFPI stood

at 5.9% in the previous month. Vegetable prices deflated 1%, after seeing double-digit inflation in most months of the financial year. Among vegetables, tomato prices deflated, and potato inflation slowed, while onion prices rose at a quicker rate.

Wheat prices rose 8.8% in the reporting month, slightly more than the 7.8%

seen in January 2024. Pulses and products inflation entered negative territory for the first time in the current fiscal, deflating 1.35% in February.

The easing of food inflation comes on a higher base as, for the better part of 2024-25, food prices rose at a pace of over 5%.

Price rise for urban consumers slowed to 3.3%, compared with 3.9% in the previous month. Rural consumers saw inflation dip to 3.8%, from 4.6% in the previous month.

Retail inflation was the highest in Kerala at 7.3% and the lowest in Telangana at just 1.3%. Nine of the 22 States had inflation above 4%. Varying food prices are the reason for this differential, says Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at the Bank of Baroda.

Retail Inflation at 7-Month Low as Food Prices Decline

खाद्य कीमतों में गिरावट के कारण खुदरा महंगाई 7 महीने के निचले स्तर पर

India's retail inflation dipped to a seven-month low of 3.6% as food prices eased in February 2025, led by vegetables, pulses, and eggs.

भारत में खुदरा महंगाई फरवरी 2025 में 3.6% के 7

महीने के निचले स्तर पर पहुंच गई, जिसका मुख्य कारण सब्जियां, दालें और अंडे हैं।

- The annual change in consumer prices was 4.26% in January 2025. जनवरी 2025 में उपभोक्ता मूल्य परिवर्तन 4.26% था।
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures retail prices, has slowed for the fourth consecutive month and is now below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% inflation target. खुदरा मूल्य मापने वाला उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) लगातार चौथे महीने धीमा हुआ और अब भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) के 4% मुद्रास्फीति लक्ष्य से नीचे आ गया है।
- This increases the likelihood of a 0.25% repo rate cut by the RBI next month, say economists. अर्थशास्त्रियों के अनुसार, इससे अगले महीने RBI द्वारा 0.25% रेपो दर कटौती की संभावना बढ़ गई है।
- "There is a decline of 65 basis points in headline inflation of February 2025 compared to January 2025. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation since July 2024," said the National Statistics Office (NSO).



"फरवरी 2025 की हेडलाइन महंगाई में 65 आधार अंकों की गिरावट हुई है जनवरी 2025 की तुलना में। यह जुलाई 2024 के बाद से सबसे कम वार्षिक मुद्रास्फीति है," राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) ने कहा।

- A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage.
एक आधार अंक प्रतिशत का सौवां भाग होता है।

Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) Trends

उपभोक्ता खाद्य मूल्य सूचकांक (CFPI) के रुझान

- The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) increased just 3.75% in February, the slowest in almost two years.
उपभोक्ता खाद्य मूल्य सूचकांक (CFPI) फरवरी में केवल 3.75% बढ़ा, जो लगभग दो वर्षों में सबसे धीमी वृद्धि है।
- In the previous month (January 2025), CFPI stood at 5.9%.
पिछले महीने (जनवरी 2025) में, CFPI 5.9% था।
- Vegetable prices declined by 1%, after witnessing double-digit inflation for most of the financial year.
सब्जियों की कीमतों में 1% की गिरावट आई, जबकि वित्तीय वर्ष के अधिकांश समय में दोहरे अंकों की महंगाई देखी गई थी।
- Among vegetables, tomato prices declined, potato inflation slowed, but onion prices rose at a quicker rate.
सब्जियों में, टमाटर की कीमतों में गिरावट, आलू की महंगाई धीमी हुई, लेकिन प्याज की कीमतें तेजी से बढ़ीं।

Wheat, Pulses, and Food Inflation Trends

गेहूं, दालें और खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति के रुझान

- Wheat prices rose by 8.8% in February 2025, slightly higher than 7.8% in January 2024.
फरवरी 2025 में गेहूं की कीमतें 8.8% बढ़ीं, जो जनवरी 2024 के 7.8% से थोड़ा अधिक है।
- Pulses and related products inflation entered negative territory for the first time in the current fiscal, declining by 1.35% in February.
चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में पहली बार, दालों और संबंधित उत्पादों की महंगाई ऋणात्मक दायरे में पहुंच गई, फरवरी में 1.35% की गिरावट दर्ज की गई।
- The easing of food inflation comes on a higher base, as for most of 2024-25, food prices rose at a pace of over 5%.
खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति में गिरावट एक उच्च आधार पर आई है, क्योंकि 2024-25 के अधिकांश समय में, खाद्य कीमतें 5% से अधिक की दर से बढ़ी थीं।



Urban vs Rural Inflation Trends

शहरी बनाम ग्रामीण मुद्रास्फीति के रुझान

- Urban consumer inflation slowed to 3.3%, compared to 3.9% in the previous month. शहरी उपभोक्ता महंगाई 3.3% तक धीमी हुई, जो पिछले महीने के 3.9% से कम है।
- Rural consumer inflation dipped to 3.8%, from 4.6% in the previous month. ग्रामीण उपभोक्ता महंगाई पिछले महीने के 4.6% से घटकर 3.8% हो गई।

State-Wise Inflation Variations

राज्यवार महंगाई में अंतर

- Retail inflation was the highest in Kerala at 7.3% and the lowest in Telangana at just 1.3%. केरल में खुदरा महंगाई सबसे अधिक 7.3% और तेलंगाना में सबसे कम 1.3% रही।
- Nine out of 22 states had inflation above 4%. 22 में से 9 राज्यों में महंगाई 4% से अधिक रही।
- Varying food prices are the reason for these differences in inflation rates, says Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda. खाद्य कीमतों में भिन्नता महंगाई दर में अंतर का मुख्य कारण है, बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा के मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री मदन सबनवीस कहते हैं।

Solapur handloom industry struggles for recognition, buyers

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

**GS Paper III:
Industries**

In one of the lanes of Solapur's Shiv Ganga Nagar, where every house is adorned with a *rangoli*, 54-year-old Suvarna Madgundi weaves silk sarees in her one-room house.

"We put in hours of work into weaving, but our effort is not recognised, preventing us from getting any benefits," she says while weaving 'zari (fine gold or silver threads)' into a blue-green sari on her brightly lit loom.

The 350-odd weaver families in Shiv Ganga Nagar make the backbone of Solapur's handloom industry, known for its terry towels and chaddars.

The weavers have been demanding the inclusion of the 'Solapuri silk sari' in the list of traditional textiles under the Maharashtra



Maharashtra's Solapur is known for silk saris. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tra government's 2023 textile policy.

The move would enable them to avail of benefits such as an old-age pension scheme, employment as master trainers at government-run handloom institutes, and an annual festival allowance of ₹15,000 for female weavers and ₹10,000 for men.

Ashok Indrapure, a handloom trader, claims that the government is "discriminating among weavers" by giving recognition to saris from some regions while disregarding the handloom produced in places like Solapur.

The list of saris on the list of traditional textiles includes south Maharashtra's Khan fabric, Himru and Paithani saris from

Ahilyanagar, Karvat Kathi saree from Vidarbha, and Ghongdi from the State's western region.

The weaver community in Solapur has demanded that their saris be included in the list under the Paithani label, as both are weaved similarly by using 'zari' on silk.

Weaver ID

Ms. Madgundi received her 'Pehchan Card (weaver ID)' six months ago, nearly 10 years after she applied for the document.

Her husband is among the many in the area who are still waiting for their weaver cards.

The card allows weavers access to credit facilities of up to ₹2 lakh through the 'Weavers Mudra Scheme' at subsidised interest rates.

The card also lets the beneficiary avail of financial assistance of up to ₹2

lakh for their children's education. It covers fees at recognised textile institutions and provides monthly stipend of ₹5,000.

However, having the card does not guarantee financial assistance as Magnat Mudgundi, a 34-year-old weaver, has found.

He has been applying for a Mudra loan using the card, but the banks have denied him the credit citing "a large number of defaulters".

One loom produces one or two saris per month. In the festive season, each sari could fetch between ₹12,000 and ₹15,000.

"The government says don't stop the handlooms. But they are the ones ensuring the death of the craft due to the poor implementation of the schemes," he says.

The market for these saris is in Pune. Every

month, weavers take at least two saris each to the bustling marketplace on Laxmi Road.

However, sometimes selling even a couple of saris is tough.

Uncertain future

"We don't have the means to hold on to our products. Selling one sari gets us through a month. But buyers demand discounts that often leave us with little profit," says Chandrashekar Malayakhane, a 40-year-old weaver.

The community is exploring new markets for their products. The government resolved to establish an 'Urban Haat', a dedicated market for handloom weavers.

However, experts feel that implementing it would not be easy as infrastructure requirements for such a project would be high.



Solapur Handloom Industry Struggles for Recognition, Buyers

सोलापुर हथकरघा उद्योग को पहचान और खरीदारों के लिए संघर्ष

In one of the lanes of Solapur's Shiv Ganga Nagar, where every house is adorned with rangoli, 54-year-old Suvarna Madgundi weaves silk sarees in her one-room house.

सोलापुर के शिव गंगा नगर की एक गली में, जहां हर घर रंगोली से सजा हुआ है, 54 वर्षीय सुवर्णा मडगुंडी अपने एक कमरे के घर में रेशमी साड़ियां बुनती हैं।

- "We put in hours of work into weaving, but our **effort is not recognised**, preventing us from getting **any benefits**," she says while weaving **zari (fine gold or silver threads)** into a **blue-green sari** on her brightly lit loom.
"हम घंटों मेहनत करके बुनाई करते हैं, लेकिन हमारी मेहनत को पहचान नहीं मिलती, जिससे हमें कोई लाभ नहीं मिल पाता," वह अपनी चमकीली रंगीन करघी पर नील-हरे रंग की साड़ी में जरदोजी (सोने या चांदी के महीन धागे) बुनते हुए कहती हैं।
- The **350-odd weaver families in Shiv Ganga Nagar** form the **backbone of Solapur's handloom industry**, known for its **terry towels and chaddars**.
शिव गंगा नगर की लगभग 350 बुनकर परिवार सोलापुर के हथकरघा उद्योग की रीढ़ हैं, जो टेरी टॉवेल और चादरों के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं।

Demand for Recognition

पहचान की मांग

- The **weavers** have been demanding the **inclusion of 'Solapuri silk sari'** in the list of **traditional textiles** under the **Maharashtra government's 2023 textile policy**.
बुनकरों ने महाराष्ट्र सरकार की 2023 कपड़ा नीति के तहत 'सोलापुरी सिल्क साड़ी' को पारंपरिक वस्त्रों की सूची में शामिल करने की मांग की है।
- This move would enable them to **avail benefits** such as:
 - **Old-age pension scheme**
 - **Employment as master trainers** at government-run **handloom institutes**
 - **Annual festival allowance** of ₹15,000 for female weavers and ₹10,000 for male weavers
यह कदम उन्हें लाभ प्राप्त करने में सक्षम करेगा, जैसे:
 - वृद्धावस्था पेंशन योजना
 - सरकारी हथकरघा संस्थानों में मास्टर प्रशिक्षकों के रूप में रोजगार
 - महिला बुनकरों के लिए ₹15,000 और पुरुष बुनकरों के लिए ₹10,000 का वार्षिक त्योहारी भत्ता



Allegations of Discrimination

भेदभाव के आरोप

- Ashok Indrapure, a handloom trader, claims that the government is “discriminating among weavers” by recognising sarees from some regions while ignoring Solapur’s handloom products.
हथकरघा व्यापारी अशोक इंद्रपुरे का दावा है कि सरकार "बुनकरों के बीच भेदभाव" कर रही है क्योंकि वह कुछ क्षेत्रों की साड़ियों को मान्यता दे रही है लेकिन सोलापुर के हथकरघा उत्पादों की अनदेखी कर रही है।
- The list of traditional textiles includes:
 - Khan fabric from South Maharashtra
 - Himru and Paithani sarees from Ahilyanagar
 - Karvat Kathi saree from Vidarbha
 - Ghongdi from Western Maharashtraपारंपरिक वस्त्रों की सूची में शामिल हैं:
 - दक्षिण महाराष्ट्र का खान कपड़ा
 - अहिल्यानगर की हिमरू और पैठणी साड़ियां
 - विदर्भ की करवट काठी साड़ी
 - पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र की घोंगड़ी

Solapur Weavers’ Demand

सोलापुर के बुनकरों की मांग

- The weaver community in Solapur has demanded that their sarees be included under the Paithani label, as both are woven similarly using zari on silk.
सोलापुर के बुनकर समुदाय ने मांग की है कि उनकी साड़ियों को पैठणी लेबल के तहत शामिल किया जाए, क्योंकि दोनों रेशम पर जरदोजी के साथ समान रूप से बुनी जाती हैं।

Weaver ID

बुनकर पहचान पत्र

- Ms. Madgundi received her ‘Pehchan Card (weaver ID)’ six months ago, nearly 10 years after she applied for the document.
सुश्री मडगुंडी को छह महीने पहले उनका 'पहचान कार्ड (बुनकर आईडी)' प्राप्त हुआ, जबकि उन्होंने 10 साल पहले इसके लिए आवेदन किया था।
- Her husband is among the many in the area who are still waiting for their weaver cards.
उनके पति उन कई लोगों में शामिल हैं जो अभी भी अपने बुनकर पहचान पत्र का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।
- The Pehchan Card allows weavers to access credit facilities of up to ₹2 lakh through the ‘Weavers Mudra Scheme’ at subsidised interest rates.



पहचान कार्ड के जरिए बुनकर 'बुनकर मुद्रा योजना' के तहत ₹2 लाख तक की ऋण सुविधा रियायती ब्याज दरों पर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

- The card also provides financial assistance of up to ₹2 lakh for their children's education, covering fees at recognised textile institutions and providing a monthly stipend of ₹5,000.

यह कार्ड बच्चों की शिक्षा के लिए ₹2 लाख तक की वित्तीय सहायता भी प्रदान करता है, जिसमें मान्यता प्राप्त वस्त्र संस्थानों की फीस शामिल है और ₹5,000 मासिक वजीफा दिया जाता है।

Challenges in Availing Benefits

लाभ प्राप्त करने में चुनौतियाँ

- However, having the card does not guarantee financial assistance, as Magnat Mudgundi, a 34-year-old weaver, has discovered.
हालांकि, कार्ड होने का मतलब वित्तीय सहायता की गारंटी नहीं है, जैसा कि 34 वर्षीय बुनकर मगनाथ मडगुंडी को अनुभव हुआ।
- He has been applying for a Mudra loan using the card, but banks have denied him credit, citing "a large number of defaulters".
उन्होंने कार्ड का उपयोग करके मुद्रा ऋण के लिए आवेदन किया, लेकिन बैंकों ने उन्हें ऋण देने से इनकार कर दिया, यह कहते हुए कि "बकायेदारों की संख्या बहुत अधिक है"।

Weaving Industry Struggles

हथकरघा उद्योग की समस्याएँ

- One loom produces one or two sarees per month. During the festive season, each sari could fetch between ₹12,000 and ₹15,000.
एक करघा प्रति माह केवल एक या दो साड़ियां तैयार करता है। त्योहारी सीजन में, प्रत्येक साड़ी ₹12,000 से ₹15,000 तक बिक सकती है।
- "The government says don't stop handlooms, but their poor implementation of schemes is killing the craft," says a weaver.
"सरकार कहती है कि हथकरघा बंद न करें, लेकिन उनकी योजनाओं का खराब कार्यान्वयन इस कला को खत्म कर रहा है," एक बुनकर कहते हैं।

Market and Sales Challenges

बाजार और बिक्री की चुनौतियाँ

- The market for these sarees is in Pune. Every month, weavers take at least two sarees to the bustling marketplace on Laxmi Road.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



इन साड़ियों का बाजार पुणे में है। हर महीने, बुनकर कम से कम दो साड़ियां लक्ष्मी रोड के व्यस्त बाजार में लेकर जाते हैं।

- However, **selling even a couple of sarees is tough** sometimes. हालांकि, कभी-कभी दो साड़ियां बेचना भी मुश्किल हो जाता है।

Uncertain Future

अनिश्चित भविष्य

- "We don't have the **means to hold on to our products**. Selling **one sari gets us through a month**, but buyers **demand discounts**, leaving us with **little profit**," says Chandrashekar Malayakhune, a 40-year-old weaver.
"हमारे पास अपने उत्पादों को संजोकर रखने के साधन नहीं हैं। एक साड़ी बेचने से हमारा महीना कट जाता है, लेकिन खरीदार छूट की मांग करते हैं, जिससे हमें बहुत कम लाभ होता है," कहते हैं 40 वर्षीय बुनकर चंद्रशेखर मलायकुणे।
- The **community is exploring new markets** for their products.
समुदाय अपने उत्पादों के लिए नए बाजार तलाश रहा है।
- The **government had planned to establish an 'Urban Haat'**, a dedicated market for handloom weavers.
सरकार ने 'अर्बन हाट' स्थापित करने की योजना बनाई थी, जो हथकरघा बुनकरों के लिए एक समर्पित बाजार होगा।
- However, experts feel that **implementing it will be challenging**, as the **infrastructure requirements are high**.
हालांकि, विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि इसका कार्यान्वयन कठिन होगा, क्योंकि इस योजना के लिए बुनियादी ढांचे की जरूरतें बहुत अधिक हैं।



GS Paper III: S&T

Hydraulic sludge robot deployed in SLBC tunnel

A hydraulic autonomous sludge robot was brought to the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel site in Telangana, a portion of which collapsed on February 22, to expedite silt removal and cut stones inside the debris on Wednesday - the 19th day of the rescue operation. This is in addition to one robot unit which has already been deployed. Official sources monitoring the rescue operation to trace the missing seven personnel, said the hydraulic sludge robot would be taken inside the tunnel to the site of the mishap. "It has the capacity for not only silt removal, but also for cutting stones and moving ahead through the debris. This will be monitored remotely," sources said.

- यह पहले से तैनात एक रोबोट इकाई के अतिरिक्त लाया गया है।
- **Official sources monitoring the rescue operation** said that the **hydraulic sludge robot** would be **taken inside the tunnel to the site of the mishap**.
बचाव अभियान की निगरानी कर रहे आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने कहा कि हाइड्रोलिक स्लज रोबोट को दुर्घटनास्थल तक सुरंग के अंदर ले जाया जाएगा।
- "It has the capacity for **not only silt removal but also for cutting stones and moving ahead through the debris**. This will be **monitored remotely**," sources said.
"इसमें सिर्फ गाद हटाने की ही नहीं, बल्कि पत्थर काटने और मलबे के बीच आगे बढ़ने की क्षमता भी है। इसे दूरस्थ रूप से नियंत्रित किया जाएगा," सूत्रों ने कहा।

Hydraulic Sludge Robot Deployed in SLBC Tunnel

एसएलबीसी सुरंग में हाइड्रोलिक स्लज रोबोट तैनात

A hydraulic autonomous sludge robot was brought to the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel site in Telangana, where a portion collapsed on February 22.

एक हाइड्रोलिक स्वायत्त स्लज रोबोट को तेलंगाना के श्रीशैलम लेफ्ट बैंक कैनाल (एसएलबीसी) सुरंग स्थल पर लाया गया, जहां 22 फरवरी को एक हिस्सा ढह गया था।

• The robot was deployed **on the 19th day of the rescue operation to expedite silt removal and cut stones inside the debris**.

यह रोबोट बचाव अभियान के 19वें दिन गाद हटाने और मलबे के अंदर पत्थर काटने की प्रक्रिया तेज करने के लिए तैनात किया गया।

• This is **in addition to one robot unit which has already been deployed**.

PATRIOTIC IAS



'A.P. govt. to consider giving pension to all thalassemia patients'

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar stated in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday that a proposal to increase the monthly pension for thalassemia patients from the current ₹10,000 would be considered. He added that the plan also includes extending the benefit to those above the poverty line, given the significant expenses associated with blood transfusions and medication.

Replying to a question asked by Visakhapatnam North MLA P. Vishnu Kumar Raju on the assistance given by the government to the thalassemia patients,



Y. Satya Kumar

Mr. Satya Kumar admitted that the disease was debilitating physically, as the patients had to undergo blood transfusion at least once every month and take medicines to keep the consequent growth of iron content in blood under check, and they had their side effects too. Besides, the cost of these medicines was beyond the capacity of the common people.

- Replying to a question by Visakhapatnam North MLA P. Vishnu Kumar Raju, Mr. Satya Kumar admitted that **thalassemia is physically debilitating**, as patients need **blood transfusions at least once every month** and take medicines to **control iron accumulation in the blood**.

विशाखापत्तनम नॉर्थ विधायक पी. विष्णु कुमार राजू के सवाल का जवाब देते हुए, श्री सत्य कुमार ने स्वीकार किया कि **थैलेसीमिया शारीरिक रूप से कमजोर करने वाली बीमारी है**, क्योंकि मरीजों को हर महीने कम से कम एक बार रक्त आधान कराना पड़ता है और रक्त में आयरन की मात्रा को नियंत्रित करने के लिए दवाएं लेनी पड़ती हैं।

- These medicines also have **side effects**, and their **cost is beyond the capacity of common people**.

इन दवाओं के दुष्प्रभाव भी होते हैं, और इनकी लागत आम लोगों की क्षमता से बाहर है।

A.P. Govt. to Consider Giving Pension to All Thalassemia Patients

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार सभी थैलेसीमिया मरीजों को पेंशन देने पर विचार करेगी

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar stated in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday that a proposal to increase the monthly pension for thalassemia patients from ₹10,000 would be considered.

आंध्र प्रदेश के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री वाई. सत्य कुमार ने बुधवार को विधानसभा में कहा कि थैलेसीमिया मरीजों की मासिक पेंशन को ₹10,000 से बढ़ाने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया जाएगा।

- He added that the plan also includes **extending the benefit to those above the poverty line**, considering the **significant expenses on blood transfusions and medication**.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि इस योजना में गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर रहने वालों को भी लाभ देने का प्रस्ताव है, क्योंकि रक्त आधान और दवाओं पर भारी खर्च होता है।



What the recent GDP data revisions reveal

GS Paper III: Economy

National accounts data released on February 28, 2025 by the National Statistical Office (NSO) provide two sets of information pertaining to, first, revised annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)/Gross Value Added (GVA) estimates for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 and, second, Q3 2024-25 GDP/GVA estimates accompanied by the second advance estimates for 2024-25.

Third quarter growth, sectoral performance

The third quarter growth of 6.2% is a clear improvement over the second quarter growth of 5.6%. In terms of sectoral performance, agriculture has shown a robust growth of 5.6% in this quarter. Manufacturing, however, continues to languish with a growth of 3.5%, although there is a marginal improvement from the previous quarter when its growth was only 2.1%. In the services sector, the trade sector, hospitality/hotels, *et al.* have also shown an improved growth of 6.7% as compared to 6.1% in Q2.

Looking at the four quarterly real GDP growth rates of 2024-25 at 6.5%, 5.6%, 6.2%, and 7.6%, respectively, two questions are of interest. First, what led to a sharp fall in the second quarter growth to 5.6%? Second, is the implied fourth quarter growth of 7.6% feasible? To examine this, we look at the contribution to growth of different expenditure segments as measured by the share of the segment concerned multiplied by its growth in the relevant quarter.

The contribution of private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) to overall GDP growth in the four quarters of 2024-25 is estimated at 4.3, 3.3, 4.1 and 5.3 percentage points, respectively. The fall in real GDP growth in the second quarter, from 6.5% to 5.6%, is explained by the fall in the contribution of PFCE growth from 4.3 to 3.3 percentage points. Further, the required growth in PFCE is estimated at 9.9% for the implied fourth quarter GDP growth of 7.6%. This seems difficult as such a high growth in PFCE has not been experienced in the recent past. The contribution of investment to growth can also be similarly measured. This is estimated at 2.3, 2.0, 1.8 and 2.1 percentage points for the four quarters



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Real and nominal growth rates have been revised upwards, which should shape medium-term potential growth and long-term strategy

of 2024-25, respectively. Thus, the relatively lower GDP growth of 6.2% in the third quarter is partly attributable to the fall in contribution of investment to GDP growth at 1.8 percentage points.

However, the required contribution of 2.1 percentage points in the fourth quarter would depend largely on government investment growth. As per the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the Government of India has incurred ₹7.57 lakh crore of capital expenditure up to January 2025. To reach the revised estimate level of ₹10.18 lakh crore, an additional ₹2.61 lakh crore needs to be spent in the remaining two months of the financial year. Average expenditure in February and March in the period 2021-22 to 2023-24 has only been ₹1.81 lakh crore. If the Government of India's investment expenditure falls short of the revised estimates – which were themselves significantly lower than the Budget estimates of ₹11.1 lakh crore – then the implied fourth quarter GDP growth of 7.6% may not be realised. Accordingly, the full year growth of 6.5% as per the second advance estimates may have to be revised downwards.

Annual data revisions

According to the revised annual numbers, the real as well as nominal growth rates have been revised upwards. Real GDP growth rates for 2022-23 to 2024-25, are now estimated at 7.6, 9.2 and 6.5%, respectively. In 2023-24, the revision in GDP growth was from 8.2% to 9.2%, and correspondingly in GVA growth from 7.2% to 8.6%.

Sectorally, the maximum upward revision in growth happened in manufacturing and in financial, real estate, *et al.* services by margins of 2.4 and 1.9 percentage points, respectively. Further, comparing 2024-25 growth with that of 2023-24, real GDP growth shows a sharp fall of 2.7 percentage points. This fall is largely explained by the lower growth in gross capital formation, which fell from 10.5% in 2023-24 to 5.8% in 2024-25.

The revision in real GDP growth also implies a revision in the Incremental Capital-Output Ratio

(ICOR). In fact, for the three years for which data have been revised, the ICOR is estimated at 4.8, 4.0 and 5.5 in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively. It may be observed that the ICOR had fallen considerably in 2023-24. However, this number may be revised again, as in this year, the contribution of discrepancies has remained very large. The average ICOR for 2022-23 and 2024-25 is 5.1. It must be noted that such sharp revisions make policy advice and policy making difficult.

Prospects for 2025-26, medium-term growth

The nominal growth rates have also been revised upwards, showing higher growth rates of 14%, 12% and 9.9% in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively. Given these trends, even the nominal GDP growth in 2025-26 may be higher than the Budget 2025-26 assumption of 10.1%. With respect to real GDP growth, the Economic Survey has given a range of 6.3%-6.8% with a mid-point of 6.55%. A 6.5% growth appears feasible for 2025-26 provided government investment shows healthy growth in the context of continued global uncertainty and some more time is required for private investment to pick up. As of now, the medium-term potential growth appears to be 6.5%. It is argued sometimes that the PFCE to GDP ratio should rise so that growth will increase because of increased consumption demand. But this overlooks the fact that, correspondingly, the investment demand will fall.

In 2023-24, the overall nominal saving rate is estimated at 30.7%, which is below the pre-COVID-19 period average of 31.2% during 2015-16 to 2019-20. The medium-term growth strategy should focus on increasing saving and investment rates. As noted by observers earlier, the real investment rate tends to be higher than the nominal investment rate because of differential price deflators of investment goods *vis-à-vis* consumption goods. In 2024-25, the real investment rate measured by gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) to GDP ratio, is estimated at 33.4%. With an ICOR of 5.1, this yields a potential growth rate of 6.5%. As of now, investment-led growth as a long-term strategy holds good.

The views expressed are personal

What the Recent GDP Data Revisions Reveal

हालिया जीडीपी डेटा संशोधन क्या दर्शाते हैं

National Accounts Data and Estimates

राष्ट्रीय लेखा डेटा और अनुमान

- National accounts data released on **February 28, 2025**, by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** provide two sets of information:
 - Revised annual GDP/GVA estimates for **2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25**.



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

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- Q3 2024-25 GDP/GVA estimates, along with second advance estimates for 2024-25.
राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) द्वारा 28 फरवरी 2025 को जारी राष्ट्रीय लेखा डेटा में दो प्रकार की जानकारी दी गई:
- 2022-23, 2023-24 और 2024-25 के संशोधित वार्षिक जीडीपी/जीवीए अनुमान।
- 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही के जीडीपी/जीवीए अनुमान और 2024-25 के दूसरे अग्रिम अनुमान।

Third Quarter Growth and Sectoral Performance

तीसरी तिमाही की वृद्धि और क्षेत्रीय प्रदर्शन

- Third quarter GDP growth was 6.2%, showing improvement over 5.6% in the second quarter.
तीसरी तिमाही की जीडीपी वृद्धि 6.2% रही, जो दूसरी तिमाही के 5.6% से बेहतर है।
- Sector-wise performance:
 - Agriculture grew at 5.6%, indicating robust growth.
 - Manufacturing showed 3.5% growth, an improvement from 2.1% in Q2.
 - Services sector, including trade and hospitality, grew by 6.7%, up from 6.1% in Q2.
क्षेत्रवार प्रदर्शन:
 - कृषि क्षेत्र में 5.6% की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, जो मजबूत विकास दर्शाता है।
 - उत्पादन क्षेत्र की वृद्धि 3.5% रही, जो दूसरी तिमाही के 2.1% से अधिक है।
 - सेवा क्षेत्र, जिसमें व्यापार और आतिथ्य शामिल हैं, ने 6.7% की वृद्धि दर्ज की, जो Q2 के 6.1% से अधिक है।

Quarterly Growth Trends and Key Questions

त्रैमासिक वृद्धि प्रवृत्तियाँ और प्रमुख प्रश्न

- Real GDP growth rates for 2024-25 in different quarters:
 1. Q1: 6.5%
 2. Q2: 5.6%
 3. Q3: 6.2%
 4. Q4 (implied): 7.6%2024-25 की वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि दर विभिन्न तिमाहियों में:
 5. Q1: 6.5%
 6. Q2: 5.6%
 7. Q3: 6.2%
 8. Q4 (अनुमानित): 7.6%
- Two key questions arise:



1. Why did Q2 growth fall sharply to 5.6%?
2. Is 7.6% growth in Q4 feasible?
दो प्रमुख प्रश्न उठते हैं:
3. दूसरी तिमाही की वृद्धि 5.6% तक क्यों गिर गई?
4. क्या चौथी तिमाही में 7.6% की वृद्धि संभव है?

Impact of Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) निजी अंतिम खपत व्यय (PFCE) का प्रभाव

- PFCE contribution to GDP growth in the four quarters of 2024-25:
 - Q1: 4.3 percentage points
 - Q2: 3.3 percentage points (causing GDP slowdown)
 - Q3: 4.1 percentage points
 - Q4 (required): 5.3 percentage points2024-25 की चार तिमाहियों में जीडीपी वृद्धि में PFCE योगदान:
 - Q1: 4.3 प्रतिशत अंक
 - Q2: 3.3 प्रतिशत अंक (जिससे जीडीपी में गिरावट आई)
 - Q3: 4.1 प्रतिशत अंक
 - Q4 (अनुमानित): 5.3 प्रतिशत अंक
- Q2 GDP slowdown (from 6.5% to 5.6%) was due to PFCE contribution falling from 4.3% to 3.3%.
दूसरी तिमाही की जीडीपी गिरावट (6.5% से 5.6%) का कारण PFCE योगदान का 4.3% से 3.3% तक गिरना था।
- Q4 GDP growth of 7.6% requires PFCE growth of 9.9%, which seems unlikely, as such high growth hasn't been seen recently.
7.6% की चौथी तिमाही जीडीपी वृद्धि के लिए PFCE में 9.9% वृद्धि आवश्यक है, जो संभावित नहीं लगती, क्योंकि हाल के वर्षों में इतनी उच्च वृद्धि नहीं देखी गई।

Impact of Investment on GDP Growth

जीडीपी वृद्धि पर निवेश का प्रभाव

- Investment contribution to GDP growth across four quarters:
 - Q1: 2.3 percentage points
 - Q2: 2.0 percentage points
 - Q3: 1.8 percentage points (lowering GDP growth to 6.2%)
 - Q4 (required): 2.1 percentage pointsचार तिमाहियों में जीडीपी वृद्धि में निवेश का योगदान:
 - Q1: 2.3 प्रतिशत अंक
 - Q2: 2.0 प्रतिशत अंक



- Q3: 1.8 प्रतिशत अंक (जिससे जीडीपी 6.2% रह गई)
- Q4 (आवश्यक): 2.1 प्रतिशत अंक
- Q4 investment growth depends on government capital expenditure.
चौथी तिमाही की निवेश वृद्धि सरकारी पूंजीगत व्यय पर निर्भर करती है।

Government Capital Expenditure and Its Impact

सरकारी पूंजीगत व्यय और इसका प्रभाव

- As per Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the Government of India has spent ₹7.57 lakh crore in capital expenditure till January 2025.
नियंत्रक महालेखाकार (CGA) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत सरकार ने जनवरी 2025 तक ₹7.57 लाख करोड़ पूंजीगत व्यय किया है।
- To meet the revised estimate of ₹10.18 lakh crore, an additional ₹2.61 lakh crore must be spent in February and March 2025.
संशोधित अनुमान ₹10.18 लाख करोड़ तक पहुंचने के लिए, फरवरी और मार्च 2025 में अतिरिक्त ₹2.61 लाख करोड़ खर्च करने होंगे।
- However, average capital expenditure in February-March (2021-24) was only ₹1.81 lakh crore, making it uncertain whether the target will be met.
हालांकि, फरवरी-मार्च (2021-24) में औसत पूंजीगत व्यय केवल ₹1.81 लाख करोड़ था, जिससे यह अनिश्चित है कि लक्ष्य पूरा होगा या नहीं।
- If the government fails to meet expenditure targets, then Q4 GDP growth of 7.6% may not be achieved.
यदि सरकार व्यय लक्ष्यों को पूरा नहीं कर पाती, तो चौथी तिमाही की 7.6% जीडीपी वृद्धि हासिल नहीं हो सकेगी।
- In that case, the full-year GDP growth of 6.5% (second advance estimates) may be revised downward.
ऐसे में, 6.5% की वार्षिक जीडीपी वृद्धि (द्वितीय अग्रिम अनुमान) को नीचे संशोधित किया जा सकता है।

Annual Data Revisions

वार्षिक डेटा संशोधन

- According to the revised annual numbers, both real and nominal GDP growth rates have been revised upwards.
संशोधित वार्षिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, वास्तविक और नाममात्र जीडीपी वृद्धि दर को ऊपर संशोधित किया गया है।
- Real GDP growth rates for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 are now estimated at 7.6%, 9.2%, and 6.5%, respectively.



2022-23, 2023-24 और 2024-25 के लिए वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि दर क्रमशः 7.6%, 9.2% और 6.5% आंकी गई है।

- In 2023-24, GDP growth was revised from 8.2% to 9.2%, and GVA growth from 7.2% to 8.6%.

2023-24 में, जीडीपी वृद्धि 8.2% से बढ़ाकर 9.2% कर दी गई, और जीवीए वृद्धि 7.2% से बढ़कर 8.6% हो गई।

- Maximum upward revision in sectoral growth:
 - Manufacturing: 2.4 percentage points
 - Financial, real estate, and other services: 1.9 percentage points
- Real GDP growth for 2024-25 shows a sharp fall of 2.7 percentage points compared to 2023-24, primarily due to lower gross capital formation growth (10.5% in 2023-24 to 5.8% in 2024-25).

2024-25 के लिए वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि 2023-24 की तुलना में 2.7 प्रतिशत अंक गिर गई, जिसका मुख्य कारण सकल पूंजी निर्माण की वृद्धि का 10.5% (2023-24) से घटकर 5.8% (2024-25) हो जाना है।

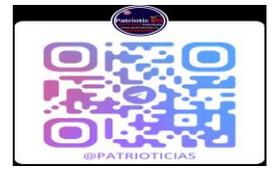
Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR) and Its Impact

आवधिक पूंजी-उत्पादन अनुपात (ICOR) और इसका प्रभाव

- Revised ICOR estimates for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25:
 - 2022-23: 4.8
 - 2023-24: 4.0 (significant decline)
 - 2024-25: 5.5
- 2022-23, 2023-24 और 2024-25 के लिए संशोधित ICOR अनुमान:
 - 2022-23: 4.8
 - 2023-24: 4.0 (महत्वपूर्ण गिरावट)
 - 2024-25: 5.5
- The average ICOR for 2022-23 and 2024-25 stands at 5.1.
2022-23 और 2024-25 के लिए औसत ICOR 5.1 है।
- Sharp ICOR revisions complicate policy-making.
ICOR में तीव्र संशोधन नीति-निर्माण को जटिल बनाते हैं।

Prospects for 2025-26 and Medium-Term Growth

2025-26 और मध्यम अवधि की वृद्धि की संभावनाएँ



- Nominal GDP growth estimates for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 have been revised upwards:
 - 2022-23: 14%
 - 2023-24: 12%
 - 2024-25: 9.9%2022-23, 2023-24 और 2024-25 के लिए नाममात्र जीडीपी वृद्धि अनुमान ऊपर संशोधित किए गए:
 - 2022-23: 14%
 - 2023-24: 12%
 - 2024-25: 9.9%
- Nominal GDP growth in 2025-26 may be higher than the Budget 2025-26 assumption of 10.1%.
2025-26 में नाममात्र जीडीपी वृद्धि बजट 2025-26 के 10.1% अनुमान से अधिक हो सकती है।
- Economic Survey's real GDP growth estimate for 2025-26:
 - Range: 6.3%-6.8%
 - Mid-point: 6.55%अर्थिक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार 2025-26 की वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि अनुमान:
 - सीमा: 6.3%-6.8%
 - मध्य बिंदु: 6.55%
- 6.5% GDP growth in 2025-26 is feasible if government investment remains strong. यदि सरकारी निवेश मजबूत बना रहता है, तो 2025-26 में 6.5% जीडीपी वृद्धि संभव है।

Investment and Saving Trends

निवेश और बचत प्रवृत्तियाँ

- PFCE-to-GDP ratio increase is sometimes suggested to boost growth, but this may reduce investment demand.
**कभी-कभी जीडीपी के अनुपात में PFCE को बढ़ाने की सिफारिश की जाती है, लेकिन इससे निवेश की मांग घट सकती है।
- Overall nominal saving rate in 2023-24: 30.7%, lower than pre-COVID-19 average of 31.2% (2015-20).
2023-24 में कुल नाममात्र बचत दर: 30.7%, जो पूर्व-कोविड-19 अवधि (2015-20) के औसत 31.2% से कम है।
- Medium-term growth strategy should focus on increasing saving and investment rates.
मध्यम अवधि की वृद्धि रणनीति को बचत और निवेश दर बढ़ाने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- Real investment rate in 2024-25 (measured by Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) to GDP ratio) is estimated at 33.4%.
2024-25 में वास्तविक निवेश दर (सकल स्थिर पूंजी निर्माण (GFCF) से जीडीपी अनुपात) 33.4% आंकी गई है।



- With an ICOR of 5.1, the potential GDP growth rate is 6.5%.
ICOR 5.1 के साथ, संभावित जीडीपी वृद्धि दर 6.5% है।
- Investment-led growth remains a strong long-term strategy.
निवेश-आधारित वृद्धि दीर्घकालिक रणनीति के रूप में मजबूत बनी हुई है।

The dangerous illusion cast by development rankings

GS Paper III: Sustainable Development

California was on fire once again. The recent wildfires were so catastrophic that some estimates placed the total economic damage at around \$250 billion, which is an amount rivalling Greece's GDP in 2023. What the California fires have shown us is the true cost of development models pursued by the world's richest countries.

If every nation consumed resources at the rate of the United States or the European Union, we would need multiple earths to sustain our way of life. Yet, international benchmarks such as the United Nations' Human Development Index (HDI) continue to project these nations as aspirational models of development. This disconnect between celebrated metrics and ecological realities is not just flawed. It is dangerous.

Misguided progress

For decades, the HDI has shaped how countries, including India, perceive progress. The index focuses on three dimensions: life expectancy, education, and income. But it ignores a crucial fourth dimension – the environmental pressures that inevitably accompany high HDI scores. Countries such as Ireland, Norway and Switzerland that top HDI rankings, are among the world's biggest resource consumers and carbon polluters per person. If their development models were adopted globally, the planet would collapse under the weight of material demands and carbon emissions.

High-income countries have already overshoot multiple planetary boundaries, ranging from greenhouse gas emissions and ecological destruction to over-pollution. The HDI's failure to account for these transgressions promotes a misguided and unsustainable model of development, celebrating the gains of affluence to the few without conceding its cost to the



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Metrics such as the United Nations' HDI and PHDI ignore the limits of a finite planet earth

collective. In response to decades of critique from sustainability experts, the UN introduced a modified index in 2020: the Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI (PHDI). This measure downgrades HDI scores for countries with high environmental impacts. Yet, even the PHDI falls short as it still ranks countries only in relation to one another rather than against absolute ecological limits. For example, the Nordic countries, consuming over five earths' worth of resources per capita, continue to score highly not because their lifestyles are truly sustainable, but because other nations (such as Qatar) fare even worse.

This relativist approach masks a fundamental reality: the rest of the world cannot scale up to the lifestyle of high-income countries without severely overshooting the planet's finite limits. In effect, the PHDI engineers a dangerous illusion of progress while perpetuating status quo.

Celebrate the middle-income countries

Our own research takes a different approach. We ask which countries have achieved decent living standards that could theoretically be scaled globally without driving the planet towards climate and ecological collapse.

Here, middle-income countries such as Costa Rica and Sri Lanka emerge as instructive examples. Costa Rica has achieved impressive outcomes – high life expectancy, universal health care, and near-universal literacy – while maintaining a resource footprint that is far lower than that of affluent nations. Decades of strategic investments in renewable energy and forest conservation have enabled it to align human development with environmental stewardship.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, offers a mixed picture. With an HDI of 0.78, which is well above many of its South Asian peers, its early investments in

universal health care and education have delivered life expectancy and literacy rates comparable to those of wealthier countries. Yet, recent events underscore the many challenges it faces. The 2022 economic crisis, marked by severe inflation, mass protests, and political instability, revealed deep vulnerabilities. Moreover, a legacy of majoritarian policies and ethnic tensions has, at times, led to episodes of severe violence against minorities, stalling their progress. Sri Lanka teaches us that achieving sustainability requires more than balancing environmental and social progress. It demands justice within and between nations.

India needs to look for alternatives

The lesson is clear: the glittering promise of the Nordic model is, at best, a local phenomenon and, at worst, an unsustainable mirage when applied globally. India, with its 1.4 billion people, cannot afford to mimic the consumption patterns of affluent nations. Instead, it must look to alternatives. While neither Costa Rica nor Sri Lanka is perfect, they offer valuable starting points for crafting an alternative development pathway that respects our planet's limits and upholds social and ecological justice.

Ultimately, the deeper question we face is to reconceptualise "progress" and "development" in light of the 21st century facts of planetary health. Metrics such as the HDI and PHDI treat growth as an unqualified good, ignoring the limits of a finite planet.

For India, as for the entire developing world, true progress must mean more than GDP growth or higher HDI rankings. It must create a society wherein every citizen lives with dignity and safely within ecological boundaries. This is not just a moral imperative or a utopian dream. It is a necessary strategy for survival in the 21st century.

The Dangerous Illusion Cast by Development Rankings

विकास रैंकिंग द्वारा बनाई गई खतरनाक भ्रांति

The True Cost of Development

विकास की वास्तविक लागत

- California wildfires have caused economic damage of around \$250 billion, comparable to Greece's GDP in 2023.



कैलिफ़ोर्निया के जंगलों में आग से \$250 बिलियन का आर्थिक नुकसान हुआ, जो 2023 में ग्रीस की जीडीपी के बराबर है।

- These disasters highlight the **hidden costs of development models pursued by the world's richest countries.**

ये आपदाएँ दुनिया के सबसे अमीर देशों द्वारा अपनाए गए विकास मॉडल की छिपी हुई लागत को उजागर करती हैं।

- If every nation consumed resources at the rate of the **U.S. or the EU**, we would need **multiple Earths** to sustain such a lifestyle.

यदि हर देश अमेरिका या यूरोपीय संघ की तरह संसाधनों का उपयोग करता, तो हमें इस जीवनशैली को बनाए रखने के लिए कई पृथ्वी की आवश्यकता होती।

Flaws in the Human Development Index (HDI)

मानव विकास सूचकांक (HDI) की खामियाँ

- Despite ecological crises, **international benchmarks like the UN's HDI** continue to **portray high-income countries as aspirational models.**
हालांकि पारिस्थितिक संकट बढ़ रहा है, फिर भी संयुक्त राष्ट्र का HDI जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानक उच्च-आय वाले देशों को आदर्श विकास मॉडल के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- The HDI measures life expectancy, education, and income but **ignores environmental impact.**
HDI जीवन प्रत्याशा, शिक्षा और आय को मापता है, लेकिन पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को नजरअंदाज करता है।
- **Countries with high HDI scores (Norway, Ireland, Switzerland)** are among the **biggest resource consumers and carbon polluters per capita.**
उच्च HDI स्कोर वाले देश (नॉर्वे, आयरलैंड, स्विट्जरलैंड) प्रति व्यक्ति सबसे अधिक संसाधन उपभोक्ता और कार्बन प्रदूषक हैं।

The Unsustainable Nature of Development Models

विकास मॉडल की अस्थिर प्रकृति

- **High-income countries have exceeded multiple planetary boundaries, including:**
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Ecological destruction
 - Over-pollutionउच्च आय वाले देशों ने कई पारिस्थितिक सीमाएँ पार कर ली हैं, जिनमें शामिल हैं:
 - ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन
 - पारिस्थितिक विनाश
 - अत्यधिक प्रदूषण
- In response to criticism, the UN introduced the **Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI (PHDI)** in 2020 to adjust scores based on **environmental impact.**



आलोचनाओं के जवाब में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 2020 में 'प्लेनेटरी प्रेसर्स-अजस्टेड HDI (PHDI)' पेश किया, जो पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव के आधार पर स्कोर समायोजित करता है।

- However, even PHDI ranks countries only relatively, ignoring absolute ecological limits.

लेकिन PHDI अभी भी देशों को केवल सापेक्ष रूप से रैंक करता है, और निश्चित पारिस्थितिक सीमाओं की अनदेखी करता है।

- Nordic countries, despite consuming five Earths' worth of resources per capita, still rank highly because other countries (e.g., Qatar) perform even worse.

नॉर्डिक देश, जो प्रति व्यक्ति पाँच पृथ्वी के बराबर संसाधन उपयोग करते हैं, फिर भी उच्च रैंक पर हैं क्योंकि अन्य देश (जैसे कतर) उनसे भी बदतर प्रदर्शन करते हैं।

Celebrating Middle-Income Countries

मध्यम-आय वाले देशों की प्रशंसा

- Costa Rica has achieved high life expectancy, universal health care, and near-universal literacy with a far lower resource footprint than affluent nations.

कोस्टा रिका ने उच्च जीवन प्रत्याशा, सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, और लगभग सार्वभौमिक साक्षरता को अल्प संसाधन उपयोग के साथ हासिल किया है।

- Strategic investments in renewable energy and forest conservation have helped Costa Rica balance human development with environmental sustainability.

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और वन संरक्षण में रणनीतिक निवेश ने कोस्टा रिका को मानव विकास और पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता के संतुलन में मदद की है।

- Sri Lanka has an HDI of 0.78, higher than many South Asian countries, due to early investments in health care and education.

श्रीलंका का HDI 0.78 है, जो कई दक्षिण एशियाई देशों से अधिक है, क्योंकि वहाँ स्वास्थ्य देखभाल और शिक्षा में प्रारंभिक निवेश किया गया था।

- However, Sri Lanka faced economic instability in 2022, revealing its vulnerabilities.

लेकिन श्रीलंका को 2022 में आर्थिक अस्थिरता का सामना करना पड़ा, जिससे उसकी कमजोरियाँ उजागर हुईं।

- Sustainability is not just about environment and economy; it also requires justice and stability.

स्थिरता केवल पर्यावरण और अर्थव्यवस्था से संबंधित नहीं है; इसमें न्याय और स्थिरता भी आवश्यक हैं।

India's Path Towards Sustainable Development

भारत के लिए स्थायी विकास की दिशा



- India (1.4 billion people) cannot afford to mimic the consumption patterns of affluent nations.
भारत (1.4 अरब लोग) अमीर देशों की उपभोग शैली को अपनाने का जोखिम नहीं उठा सकता।
- Instead, India must explore **alternative models**, like those of **Costa Rica and Sri Lanka**, that align **human progress with ecological limits**.
इसके बजाय, भारत को कोस्टा रिका और श्रीलंका जैसे वैकल्पिक मॉडल अपनाने चाहिए, जो मानव प्रगति और पारिस्थितिक सीमाओं के अनुरूप हों।
- Metrics such as **HDI and PHDI** treat **growth as an absolute good**, ignoring **planetary limits**.
HDI और PHDI जैसी मापदंड वृद्धि को एक पूर्ण रूप से सकारात्मक मानते हैं, लेकिन पारिस्थितिक सीमाओं की अनदेखी करते हैं।
- **True progress for India** must focus on:
 - **Dignity for all citizens**
 - **Ecological sustainability**
 - **Social and economic justice**
भारत के लिए वास्तविक प्रगति को निम्नलिखित पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए:
 - सभी नागरिकों के लिए गरिमा
 - पारिस्थितिक स्थिरता
 - सामाजिक और आर्थिक न्याय
- This is not just a **moral duty or utopian dream**, but a **necessary survival strategy for the 21st century**.
यह केवल नैतिक दायित्व या आदर्शवादी सपना नहीं है, बल्कि 21वीं सदी में अस्तित्व बनाए रखने के लिए एक आवश्यक रणनीति है।



Should India focus on its global image or domestic concerns?

According to a Lokniti-CSDS survey, many citizens feel that the government's resources should be directed towards pressing domestic concerns

GS Paper III: Development vs. Global Image

DATA POINT

Jyoti Mishra & Sanjal Shastri

In recent years, India has emerged as a significant player in global diplomacy, particularly through its presidency of the G20 Summit. This role has elevated the country's international stature. It has equally sparked debates about priorities, i.e., whether India should focus on enhancing its global image or address pressing domestic concerns.

This article, which explores these discussions, is based on a study, Indian perceptions of Europe and Germany, conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The study surveyed 5,248 respondents through face-to-face interviews across 50 cities in 10 States and three Union Territories. Using systematic random sampling, the study ensured balanced representation across urban strata (Tier I, II, and III cities). The fieldwork was conducted between August 29 and September 26, 2024, by trained field investigators.

Point of contention

A major point of contention is whether the government's emphasis on enhancing India's global image through grand international events is justified or whether the funds should be redirected to alleviate domestic poverty. Survey data suggest that over two-fifths (42%) of respondents believe that the money spent on beautifying cities for summits such as G20 should instead be allocated to poverty alleviation. This shows that a segment of the population prioritises domestic economic needs over foreign policy ambitions. In contrast, three in 10 (29%) respondents support prioritising India's global image, seeing events such as the G20 as an opportunity to showcase India's progress on an international stage (Table 1).

The data also reveal that class plays a role in shaping these opinions. Among lower-income respondents, over one-third (36%) advocate redirecting funds towards poverty relief, while only one in five support spending on beautification of cities. Conversely, two in five (39%) respondents from the upper class believe that enhancing India's image is essential, although over two in five (42%) of them also agree that funds should help alleviate poverty. This divergence underscores the challenge of balancing foreign policy initiatives with domestic socioeconomic needs.

Opinion on liberalisation

As India negotiates a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, public opinion on trade liberalisation remains divided. About 37% of the respondents believe that increasing exports is the best way to strengthen India's position in the global market, while 39% believe that limiting exports to focus on the domestic market would be a better strategy (Table 2). This data reflects a broader debate on trade policies. While the government is keen to expand global trade, particularly with the EU, a significant portion of the public remains sceptical about whether this will truly benefit India's economy or primarily serve multinational corporations and elite business interests.

One area where public opinion is more decisive is agriculture. When asked whether India should limit import of food grains to protect domestic farmers, 64% of respondents agreed, indicating widespread support for import substitution policies. Only 12% of the respondents supported importing more foodgrains even if it came at the cost of Indian farmers (Table 3). This reflects a strong sentiment against excessive reliance on foreign food imports, which many believe could hurt domestic farmers. The government's push for an FTA with the EU raises concerns that increased

agricultural imports might threaten the livelihoods of Indian farmers. While trade liberalisation may have economic benefits, the public remains wary of its impact on the agricultural sector.

The Indian government's current economic strategy appears to be focused on enhancing India's global standing through trade agreements and international summits. However, public opinion suggests a mixed response to these priorities. While a segment of the population supports economic liberalisation and foreign policy ambitions, a substantial portion believes that domestic concerns such as poverty alleviation and protection of farmers should take priority.

This disconnect raises important questions about policymaking in India. Should the government align its economic and foreign policies more closely with public sentiment, or should it continue its long-term strategy of positioning India as a global economic power? The upcoming FTA with the EU will be a key test of this balancing act, determining whether the government's pursuit of global economic integration aligns with the priorities of its citizens.

While India's role in global diplomacy is expanding, so is the debate about its impact on domestic priorities. While international summits such as the G20 and trade agreements with the EU showcase India's economic progress, many citizens feel that the government's resources should be directed towards pressing domestic concerns, particularly poverty alleviation and farmer protection. The mixed public opinion on trade and economic liberalisation underlines the need for a balanced approach. The government must find ways to integrate India into the global economy while addressing the concerns of those who feel left behind.

Jyoti Mishra is a researcher at Lokniti-CSDS and Sanjal Shastri is Assistant Professor at FLAME University, Pune



Perception and priorities

The data for the tables is from a study, Indian perceptions of Europe and Germany, conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Table 1: Opinions on whether India should use funds for its global image or to address domestic poverty

Opinion on international summits such as the G20	India's image is essential (%)	Funds should help poor people (%)	No response (%)	Not heard of G20 summit (%)
Overall	29	42	18	11
Poor	20	36	23	21
Lower	27	41	21	11
Middle	31	46	16	7
Upper	39	42	14	5

Question asked: Some people believe beautifying cities before international summits such as G20 is essential to enhance India's global image. Others argue that this money could be better spent addressing poverty. What is your opinion?

Table 2: Public opinion on balancing exports and strengthening the domestic market

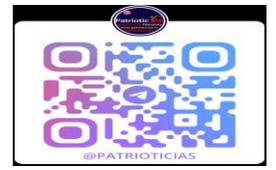
Answer	(%)
Exporting goods and products can improve India's international image	37
India should limit exports to strengthen the domestic market	39

Table 3: Public opinion on import substitution to protect farmers

Answer	(%)
India should limit food grain imports to protect farmers	64
India should import more food grains at the cost of farmers	12

The survey involved 5,248 respondents through face-to-face interviews across 50 cities in 10 States and three Union Territories

Should India Focus on Its Global Image or Domestic Concerns?



क्या भारत को अपनी वैश्विक छवि पर ध्यान देना चाहिए या घरेलू मुद्दों पर?

India's Growing Global Role

भारत की बढ़ती वैश्विक भूमिका

- In recent years, India has emerged as a key player in global diplomacy, especially through its G20 presidency.
हाल के वर्षों में, भारत वैश्विक कूटनीति में एक प्रमुख भूमिका में उभरा है, विशेष रूप से G20 की अध्यक्षता के माध्यम से।
- This has sparked debates on whether India should prioritize its global image or address pressing domestic concerns.
इससे यह बहस छिड़ गई है कि भारत को अपनी वैश्विक छवि को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए या घरेलू मुद्दों को हल करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।
- A study by Lokniti-CSDS in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung surveyed 5,248 respondents across 50 cities in 10 States and 3 Union Territories.
लोकनीति-CSDS द्वारा कोनराड एडेनॉयर स्टिफ्टिंग के सहयोग से किए गए एक अध्ययन में 10 राज्यों और 3 केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के 50 शहरों में 5,248 उत्तरदाताओं का सर्वेक्षण किया गया।

Public Opinion on Government Spending

सरकारी खर्च पर जनमत

- A major point of contention is whether spending on global events like G20 summits is justified or if funds should be used for poverty alleviation.
एक मुख्य विवाद का विषय यह है कि वैश्विक कार्यक्रमों जैसे G20 सम्मेलनों पर खर्च उचित है या यह गरीबी उन्मूलन के लिए उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए।
- Survey findings:
 - 42% believe that money spent on beautifying cities for global events should be redirected towards poverty alleviation.
 - 29% support prioritizing India's global image, seeing events like G20 as an opportunity to showcase India's progress.
सर्वेक्षण के निष्कर्ष:
 - 42% लोगों का मानना है कि वैश्विक कार्यक्रमों के लिए शहरों को संवारने पर खर्च किए गए धन को गरीबी उन्मूलन में लगाया जाना चाहिए।
 - 29% लोग भारत की वैश्विक छवि को प्राथमिकता देने का समर्थन करते हैं, क्योंकि वे G20 जैसे कार्यक्रमों को भारत की प्रगति दिखाने का अवसर मानते हैं।
- Class-wise opinions:
 - 36% of lower-income respondents favor spending on poverty relief, while only 20% support city beautification.



- 39% of upper-class respondents believe enhancing India's global image is essential, but 42% also support poverty alleviation.
आय वर्ग के अनुसार राय:
- 36% निम्न-आय वर्ग के उत्तरदाता गरीबी उन्मूलन पर खर्च का समर्थन करते हैं, जबकि केवल 20% शहरों को संवारने के पक्ष में हैं।
- 39% उच्च-आय वर्ग के लोग भारत की वैश्विक छवि को महत्वपूर्ण मानते हैं, लेकिन 42% गरीबी उन्मूलन का भी समर्थन करते हैं।

Divided Opinion on Trade Liberalization

व्यापार उदारीकरण पर विभाजित राय

- As India negotiates a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, public opinion on trade policies is divided.
भारत यूरोपीय संघ के साथ एक मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) पर बातचीत कर रहा है, लेकिन इस पर जनमत विभाजित है।
- Survey findings:
 - 37% believe increasing exports will strengthen India's position in the global market.
 - 39% prefer limiting exports to focus on domestic markets.
सर्वेक्षण निष्कर्ष:
 - 37% लोगों का मानना है कि निर्यात बढ़ाने से भारत की वैश्विक बाजार में स्थिति मजबूत होगी।
 - 39% लोग घरेलू बाजार पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के लिए निर्यात को सीमित करना बेहतर मानते हैं।
- While the government is keen to expand global trade, many fear that it may primarily benefit multinational corporations and business elites.
हालांकि सरकार वैश्विक व्यापार का विस्तार करना चाहती है, लेकिन कई लोग मानते हैं कि इसका लाभ मुख्य रूप से बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों और व्यापारिक अभिजात वर्ग को मिलेगा।

Public Concern for Farmers

किसानों को लेकर जनता की चिंता

- 64% respondents support limiting food grain imports to protect Indian farmers.
64% उत्तरदाता भारतीय किसानों की रक्षा के लिए खाद्यान्न आयात को सीमित करने का समर्थन करते हैं।
- Only 12% support increased food imports, even if it affects Indian farmers.
केवल 12% लोग अधिक खाद्यान्न आयात का समर्थन करते हैं, भले ही इससे भारतीय किसानों पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़े।



- Concerns about the EU FTA: Increased agricultural imports may threaten Indian farmers' livelihoods.
यूरोपीय संघ FTA को लेकर चिंता: कृषि आयात में वृद्धि भारतीय किसानों की आजीविका को खतरे में डाल सकती है।

Balancing Global Influence and Domestic Priorities

वैश्विक प्रभाव और घरेलू प्राथमिकताओं के बीच संतुलन

- The Indian government prioritizes global standing through trade agreements and international summits.
भारतीय सरकार व्यापार समझौतों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलनों के माध्यम से वैश्विक स्थिति को प्राथमिकता देती है।
- However, public opinion remains divided:
 - Some support economic liberalization and foreign policy expansion.
 - Many believe domestic issues such as poverty alleviation and farmer protection should take precedence.
हालांकि, जनमत विभाजित है:
 - कुछ लोग आर्थिक उदारीकरण और विदेशी नीति विस्तार का समर्थन करते हैं।
 - कई लोग घरेलू मुद्दों जैसे गरीबी उन्मूलन और किसान संरक्षण को प्राथमिकता देने की बात करते हैं।
- Key Question: Should the government align policies with public sentiment or continue positioning India as a global power?
मुख्य प्रश्न: क्या सरकार को नीतियों को जनभावनाओं के अनुरूप बनाना चाहिए या भारत को वैश्विक शक्ति के रूप में स्थापित करने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए?
- The FTA with the EU will be a key test to determine whether India's global ambitions align with public priorities.
यूरोपीय संघ के साथ FTA एक महत्वपूर्ण परीक्षा होगी, यह देखने के लिए कि भारत की वैश्विक महत्वाकांक्षाएँ जनसामान्य की प्राथमिकताओं से मेल खाती हैं या नहीं।

Conclusion: Finding a Balanced Approach

निष्कर्ष: संतुलित दृष्टिकोण अपनाना आवश्यक

- India's expanding global diplomacy is accompanied by growing domestic concerns.
भारत की बढ़ती वैश्विक कूटनीति के साथ-साथ घरेलू चिंताएँ भी बढ़ रही हैं।
- International summits like G20 and FTAs with the EU showcase India's progress, but many citizens feel that government resources should prioritize domestic issues.



G20 जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन और यूरोपीय संघ के साथ FTA भारत की प्रगति को प्रदर्शित करते हैं, लेकिन कई नागरिकों का मानना है कि सरकारी संसाधनों को घरेलू मुद्दों पर प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।

- **Public opinion on economic liberalization is mixed**, indicating a need for a balanced strategy.

आर्थिक उदारीकरण पर जनमत मिला-जुला है, जो संतुलित रणनीति की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।

- The government must find ways to integrate India into the global economy while addressing domestic concerns.

सरकार को भारत को वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था में एकीकृत करने के साथ-साथ घरेलू मुद्दों का समाधान करने के तरीके खोजने होंगे।

Charges Against Musk

मस्क पर लगे आरोप

- Many Royal Society fellows believe that Musk's inflammatory remarks on British politicians violate the Society's code of conduct.

कई रॉयल सोसाइटी के सदस्य मानते हैं कि ब्रिटिश राजनेताओं पर मस्क की भड़काऊ टिप्पणियाँ सोसाइटी की आचार संहिता का उल्लंघन करती हैं।

- Scientists are concerned about Musk's role in the Trump administration, particularly as head of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), where he has made major funding cuts to scientific research.

वैज्ञानिकों को ट्रंप प्रशासन में मस्क की भूमिका को लेकर चिंता है, खासतौर पर यू.एस. डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ गवर्नमेंट एफिशिएंसी (DOGE) के प्रमुख के रूप में, जहां उन्होंने वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान के लिए फंडिंग में कटौती की।

- Musk is accused of spreading false material and engaging in political propaganda on his social media platform, X (formerly Twitter).

मस्क पर गलत जानकारी फैलाने और अपने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर राजनीतिक प्रचार में शामिल होने का आरोप है।

- His company, Neuralink, recently developed a brain-computer interface, but he has been criticized for not allowing external oversight in his research methods.

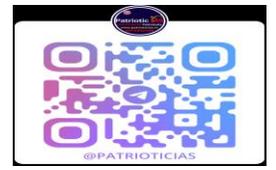
उनकी कंपनी Neuralink ने हाल ही में एक ब्रेन-कंप्यूटर इंटरफेस विकसित किया, लेकिन अन्य वैज्ञानिकों को शोध पद्धति की समीक्षा की अनुमति न देने के कारण उनकी आलोचना हो रही है।

- Allegations of non-compliance with 'Good Laboratory Practice' (GLP) regulations have also surfaced against Neuralink.

Neuralink पर 'गुड लेबोरेटरी प्रैक्टिस' (GLP) नियमों का पालन न करने के आरोप भी लगे हैं।

- Musk has made slanderous accusations against public scientists, including Anthony Fauci, and is accused of encouraging vaccine hesitancy and doubting climate change science.

मस्क ने सार्वजनिक वैज्ञानिकों, जैसे एंथनी फौसी, पर अपमानजनक आरोप लगाए, और उन पर वैक्सीन को लेकर झिझक बढ़ाने और जलवायु परिवर्तन विज्ञान पर संदेह जताने का आरोप भी है।



Why Has Musk Not Been Expelled?

मस्क को निष्कासित क्यों नहीं किया गया?

- The Royal Society has over 1,700 fellows, but only 60 have officially signed the letter supporting Musk's expulsion.
रॉयल सोसाइटी के 1,700 से अधिक सदस्य हैं, लेकिन केवल 60 सदस्यों ने औपचारिक रूप से मस्क के निष्कासन के पक्ष में पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।
- Some scientists, including Nobel laureate Andre Geim (University of Manchester), argue that Musk's achievements outweigh his criticisms.
कुछ वैज्ञानिक, जैसे नोबेल विजेता आंद्रे गीम (मैनचेस्टर विश्वविद्यालय), का तर्क है कि मस्क की उपलब्धियाँ उनके आलोचकों की तुलना में अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- The Society justifies Musk's 2018 election as a fellow, citing his contributions to:
 - SpaceX – leading the development of reusable rockets and spacecraft.
 - Tesla – pioneering electric vehicles (EVs).
 - Neuralink – developing brain-machine interfaces.सोसाइटी 2018 में मस्क को फेलो चुने जाने को उचित ठहराती है, उनके योगदान के आधार पर:
 - SpaceX – पुनः उपयोगी रॉकेट और अंतरिक्ष यान विकसित करना।
 - Tesla – इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (EVs) को लोकप्रिय बनाना।
 - Neuralink – ब्रेन-मशीन इंटरफेस विकसित करना।
- The Society fears that revoking Musk's fellowship could cause political tensions between the U.S. and U.K..
सोसाइटी को डर है कि मस्क की सदस्यता रद्द करने से अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन के बीच राजनीतिक तनाव बढ़ सकता है।
- Some also argue that removing Musk could damage public confidence in science, as it might blur the line between science and politics.
कुछ लोगों का यह भी तर्क है कि मस्क को हटाने से विज्ञान में जनता का विश्वास कमजोर हो सकता है, क्योंकि इससे विज्ञान और राजनीति के बीच का अंतर धुंधला हो सकता है।

What's Next?

आगे क्या होगा?

- On March 3, 2025, the Royal Society held a meeting, but Musk's fellowship remains intact.
3 मार्च 2025 को रॉयल सोसाइटी की बैठक हुई, लेकिन मस्क की सदस्यता अब भी बनी हुई है।
- The Society's official statement did not mention Musk, but it announced plans to counter misinformation and attacks on science.
सोसाइटी के आधिकारिक बयान में मस्क का उल्लेख नहीं किया गया, लेकिन इसने गलत सूचना और विज्ञान पर हो रहे हमलों का मुकाबला करने की योजना बनाई।



- Future actions may include **investigating Musk's compliance with the Society's code of conduct.**
भविष्य में मस्क के आचार संहिता के पालन की जाँच की जा सकती है।
- It remains uncertain **whether the Royal Society will take direct action against Musk** in the coming months.
यह अब भी अनिश्चित है कि रॉयल सोसाइटी आने वाले महीनों में मस्क के खिलाफ कोई सीधा कदम उठाएगी या नहीं।

Is the government stifling the online gaming sector?

Online skill-based gaming has the potential to harness programming, design, and storytelling talent to leapfrog India to the top of the tech leader board globally

GS Paper III: Online Gaming Sector

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rajeev Gowda

The Economic Survey 2024-25 has called for "accelerating and amplifying the deregulation agenda", and has urged the government to "get out of the way" so that businesses can go about their business. While this sounds enticing, what does deregulation mean in practical terms? How should the government take the deregulation agenda forward?

The gaming sector's potential
Target areas for deregulation can be found by surveying the regulatory landscape to identify where the heavy hand of the government is hampering growth. One such domain is the online gaming sector. The judiciary brought

attention back on the need to deregulate the sector through a 2025 Supreme Court stay order on the Union government's retrospective GST demand on the online gaming sector to the tune of ₹1.12 lakh crore. How did this come about?

Online skill-based gaming is a sunrise sector, where three startups have already transformed into unicorns. It has the potential to harness programming, design, and storytelling talent to leapfrog India to the top of the tech leader board globally. India, with 650 million smartphone users and half the population below the age of 35, can outshine other countries in online gaming from the perspective of technology innovation and financial returns. A PwC report pegs online gaming as among the fastest growing sectors in India, accounting for ₹33,000 crore in 2023, and projected to reach ₹66,000 crore, growing at a CAGR of 14.5% between 2023-2028. Online

gaming could create an additional 2-3 lakh direct and indirect jobs in the next few years, in addition to the two lakh jobs already generated.

Tax imposition

While the State governments of Karnataka and Telangana are rolling out policies to promote animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics sectors, such positive steps have paled against the instincts of the tax collector. Union and State governments have unanimously slapped a 28% GST on online gaming, a rate usually reserved for public 'harms' such as gambling, liquor, and tobacco. Some State governments had even imposed bans on online gaming, classifying them as part of gambling, which the courts overturned and termed unconstitutional, as "games of skill" are legal and cannot be classified as gambling. Such futile legal diversions waste government and industry

resources.

The apparent trigger for such regulatory interventions was the conflation of online gaming with online gambling. There are lessons for those in the online gaming sector from this confusion. Clearly families and regulators are concerned about users' problematic online practices. The industry should therefore strengthen protections against excessive use. For example, by analysing data it possesses about users' behaviour, it can create individually-customised safeguards which prevent problematic practices on their platforms.

The Union government's effort to bring the online gaming sector dry is a black warrant for online gaming, as smaller startups will go bankrupt or simply shut shop. It will also spur the growth of illegal gambling and betting sites, which are already flourishing, typically operating offshore beyond the reach of our regulators.

An effective way for the government to commence its new wave of deregulation would be to rationalise GST rates and co-craft a regulatory framework with the online gaming industry. But the first step is to drop the unjustifiable retrospective GST demand which threatens to eclipse this sunrise sector.

M. V. Rajeev Gowda is a former Member of Parliament and Ex Professor of Public Policy at IIM Bangalore. These views are personal.

THE GIST

▼ A PwC report pegs online gaming as among the fastest growing sectors in India, accounting for ₹33,000 crore in 2023, and projected to reach ₹66,000 crore.

▼ Union and State governments have unanimously slapped a 28% GST on online gaming, a rate usually reserved for public 'harms' such as gambling, liquor, and tobacco.

▼ An effective way for the government to commence its new wave of deregulation would be to rationalise GST rates and co-craft a regulatory framework with the online gaming industry.

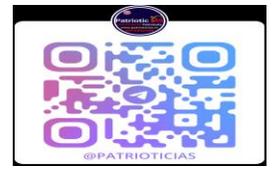
Is the Government Stifling the Online Gaming Sector?

क्या सरकार ऑनलाइन गेमिंग सेक्टर को दबा रही है?

Economic Survey and Deregulation

आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण और विनियमन में ढील

- The **Economic Survey 2024-25** calls for "accelerating and amplifying deregulation", urging the government to "get out of the way" to let businesses grow.
आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण 2024-25 ने "विनियमन में तेजी से ढील देने" का आह्वान किया है और सरकार से "रास्ते से हटने" की अपील की है ताकि व्यवसायों को बढ़ने का मौका मिले।
- The **question arises:** How should deregulation be implemented?
प्रश्न उठता है: विनियमन में ढील कैसे दी जानी चाहिए?



Potential of the Online Gaming Sector

ऑनलाइन गेमिंग सेक्टर की संभावनाएँ

- **Online skill-based gaming** is a fast-growing industry with three unicorn startups already emerging in India.
ऑनलाइन स्किल-बेस्ड गेमिंग एक तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ क्षेत्र है, जिसमें तीन यूनिकॉर्न स्टार्टअप पहले ही उभर चुके हैं।
- It has the **potential to harness programming, design, and storytelling talent**, making India a **global tech leader**.
इसमें प्रोग्रामिंग, डिजाइन और कहानी कहने की प्रतिभा को विकसित करने की क्षमता है, जिससे भारत वैश्विक टेक लीडर बन सकता है।
- With **650 million smartphone users** and **half the population below 35**, India can become a **key player in gaming innovation and financial growth**.
650 मिलियन स्मार्टफोन उपयोगकर्ता और 35 वर्ष से कम आयु की आधी जनसंख्या के साथ, भारत गेमिंग नवाचार और वित्तीय विकास में अग्रणी बन सकता है।
- According to a **PwC report**:
 - **₹33,000 crore market in 2023**, expected to **grow to ₹66,000 crore by 2028** at a **CAGR of 14.5%**.
 - **2-3 lakh additional jobs** could be created in the coming years, adding to the **2 lakh jobs** already generated.
PwC रिपोर्ट के अनुसार:
 - **2023 में ₹33,000 करोड़ का बाजार**, जो **2028 तक ₹66,000 करोड़ तक** पहुंच सकता है, **14.5% की वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (CAGR)** के साथ।
 - **अगले कुछ वर्षों में 2-3 लाख अतिरिक्त नौकरियाँ** सृजित हो सकती हैं, जो पहले से मौजूद **2 लाख नौकरियों** में जुड़ेंगी।

Tax Burden on the Industry

उद्योग पर कर का बोझ

- Despite **State governments like Karnataka and Telangana** supporting the **animation, gaming, and VFX sectors**, the **imposition of 28% GST** on online gaming has **stifled growth**.
हालांकि कर्नाटक और तेलंगाना जैसी राज्य सरकारें एनीमेशन, गेमिंग और वीएफएक्स सेक्टर को बढ़ावा दे रही हैं, लेकिन **28% जीएसटी** लगाने से इस क्षेत्र की विकास क्षमता बाधित हो गई है।
- **28% GST** is typically applied to **harmful sectors like gambling, liquor, and tobacco**, equating online gaming with gambling.
28% जीएसटी आमतौर पर हानिकारक उद्योगों जैसे जुआ, शराब और तंबाकू पर लगाया जाता है, जिससे ऑनलाइन गेमिंग को जुए के बराबर माना जा रहा है।



- Several **State governments attempted to ban online gaming**, classifying it as gambling, but **courts ruled it unconstitutional** since "**games of skill**" are legal.
कई राज्य सरकारों ने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की कोशिश की, इसे जुए की श्रेणी में रखा, लेकिन अदालतों ने इसे असंवैधानिक करार दिया, क्योंकि "कौशल आधारित खेल" कानूनी रूप से वैध हैं।

Impact of Misclassification

गलत श्रेणीकरण का प्रभाव

- The **confusion between online gaming and gambling** has led to **legal battles and regulatory crackdowns**.
ऑनलाइन गेमिंग और जुए के बीच भ्रम के कारण कानूनी लड़ाइयाँ और नियामक हस्तक्षेप बढ़ गए हैं।
- Families and regulators worry about **excessive gaming habits**, making it necessary for the industry to **implement safeguards**.
परिवार और नियामक अत्यधिक गेमिंग की आदतों को लेकर चिंतित हैं, जिससे उद्योग के लिए सुरक्षा उपायों को लागू करना आवश्यक हो गया है।
- **AI-based monitoring tools** can help **track and limit problematic gaming behavior**.
एआई-आधारित निगरानी उपकरण खराब गेमिंग आदतों को ट्रैक और नियंत्रित करने में मदद कर सकते हैं।

Threat to Indian Startups

भारतीय स्टार्टअप्स के लिए खतरा

- The **retrospective GST demand of ₹1.12 lakh crore** has placed a **huge financial burden** on the online gaming sector.
₹1.12 लाख करोड़ की पिछली जीएसटी माँग ने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग सेक्टर पर भारी वित्तीय दबाव डाल दिया है।
- **Smaller startups may go bankrupt** or be forced to **shut down operations**.
छोटे स्टार्टअप दिवालिया हो सकते हैं या अपने संचालन को बंद करने के लिए मजबूर हो सकते हैं।
- This crackdown could **push gaming companies offshore**, leading to an **increase in illegal gambling and betting platforms** beyond regulatory control.
यह दबाव गेमिंग कंपनियों को विदेशी बाजारों में धकेल सकता है, जिससे अवैध जुआ और सट्टेबाजी प्लेटफार्मों में वृद्धि हो सकती है, जो नियामकों के नियंत्रण से बाहर होंगे।

A Call for Rationalization

विनियमन को व्यावहारिक बनाने की आवश्यकता

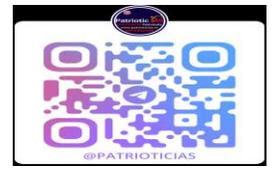
- The government should **work with the gaming industry to create a balanced regulatory framework**.
सरकार को गेमिंग उद्योग के साथ मिलकर संतुलित नियामक ढांचा बनाना चाहिए।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Steps for reform:
 - Rationalizing GST rates to encourage growth.
 - Clearly distinguishing online gaming from gambling.
 - Dropping the retrospective GST demand.
 - Implementing responsible gaming safeguards.
- सुधार के लिए कदम:
- विकास को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए जीएसटी दरों को संतुलित करना।
 - ऑनलाइन गेमिंग को जुए से स्पष्ट रूप से अलग करना।
 - पिछली जीएसटी माँग को वापस लेना।
 - उत्तरदायी गेमिंग सुरक्षा उपाय लागू करना।

Conclusion: A Balancing Act

निष्कर्ष: संतुलन बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता

- India has the potential to become a global leader in online gaming, but over-regulation threatens its growth.
भारत ऑनलाइन गेमिंग में वैश्विक नेता बनने की क्षमता रखता है, लेकिन अत्यधिक नियमन इसके विकास को बाधित कर रहा है।
- Government policies should foster innovation, not stifle an emerging industry.
सरकारी नीतियों को नवाचार को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए, न कि एक उभरते उद्योग को दबाना चाहिए।
- The first step toward deregulation should be withdrawing the ₹1.12 lakh crore GST demand and creating a progressive policy framework.
विनियमन में ढील देने की दिशा में पहला कदम ₹1.12 लाख करोड़ की जीएसटी माँग को वापस लेना और एक प्रगतिशील नीति ढांचा बनाना होना चाहिए।



Parliamentary panel asks Centre to spend more on agriculture, rename Ministry

GS Paper III: Agriculture

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee of Parliament on Agriculture, headed by former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, has recommended a change in the name of the Union Agriculture Ministry to reflect the importance of farm workers, too.

The panel, in its report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, has also demanded a comprehensive crop insurance plan for small-holding farmers.

The committee said the name of the 'Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare' may be changed to 'Department of Agriculture, Farmers and Farm Labourers Welfare'. The renaming offers several potential benefits as it would acknowledge the signifi-



The committee has demanded a crop insurance plan for small-holding farmers. AFP

cant role of farm labourers in the agricultural sector, the panel said.

'Frequently overlooked' "Farm labourers, who often belong to marginalised communities, are a critical part of the agricultural workforce but are frequently overlooked in policy discussions and welfare

schemes," the committee said, recommending the establishment of a 'National Commission for Minimum Living Wages for Farm Labourers' to address wage disparities and improve living standards.

The panel requested the Ministry to put in place required processes and mechanisms to monitor the usage of funds at regular intervals, and to address the issues that may hamper the entire spending of the allocated amounts.

The committee recommended minimum support price (MSP) for all organic crops, in addition to the MSP declared on the traditional crops. "However, the demand for MSP on organic produce should not undermine the broader MSP demand based on the Swaminathan formula," it said.

- The proposed new name: 'Department of Agriculture, Farmers, and Farm Labourers Welfare', to recognize the contribution of farm labourers.

नया प्रस्तावित नाम: 'कृषि, किसान और कृषि श्रमिक कल्याण विभाग', ताकि कृषि श्रमिकों के योगदान को मान्यता मिल सके।

- The panel stated that farm labourers play a critical role in agriculture, but are often overlooked in policies and welfare schemes.

समिति ने कहा कि कृषि श्रमिक कृषि क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, लेकिन नीतियों और कल्याणकारी योजनाओं में अक्सर उपेक्षित रहते हैं।

Call for a National Commission on Wages for Farm Labourers

कृषि श्रमिकों के लिए राष्ट्रीय आयोग की मांग

- The committee suggested establishing a 'National Commission for Minimum Living Wages for Farm Labourers'.

समिति ने 'कृषि श्रमिकों के लिए न्यूनतम जीवनयापन वेतन पर राष्ट्रीय आयोग' स्थापित करने की सिफारिश की।

Parliamentary Panel Asks Centre to Spend More on Agriculture, Rename Ministry

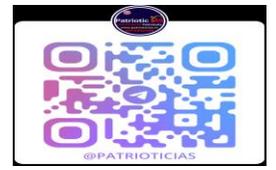
संसदीय पैनल ने केंद्र से कृषि पर अधिक खर्च करने और मंत्रालय का नाम बदलने की सिफारिश की

Proposal to Rename Agriculture Ministry

कृषि मंत्रालय का नाम बदलने का प्रस्ताव

- The Standing Committee on Agriculture, led by former Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi, has recommended renaming the Union Agriculture Ministry.

कृषि पर स्थायी समिति, जिसकी अध्यक्षता पूर्व पंजाब मुख्यमंत्री चरणजीत सिंह चन्नी कर रहे हैं, ने केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्रालय का नाम बदलने की सिफारिश की है।



- This will address wage disparities and improve the living standards of farm labourers, who often belong to marginalized communities.

यह वेतन असमानताओं को दूर करेगा और कृषि श्रमिकों के जीवन स्तर में सुधार करेगा, जो अक्सर वंचित समुदायों से आते हैं।

Monitoring of Agricultural Funds

कृषि निधियों की निगरानी

- The panel urged the Ministry to implement mechanisms for regular monitoring of fund usage.

समिति ने मंत्रालय से निधियों के उपयोग की नियमित निगरानी के लिए तंत्र लागू करने का आग्रह किया।

- This will help ensure full utilization of allocated funds and address issues that hinder agricultural spending.

इससे आवंटित निधियों का पूर्ण उपयोग सुनिश्चित किया जा सकेगा और कृषि व्यय में बाधा डालने वाली समस्याओं का समाधान किया जा सकेगा।

Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Organic Crops

जैविक फसलों के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP)

- The panel recommended MSP for all organic crops, in addition to the MSP for traditional crops.

समिति ने पारंपरिक फसलों के MSP के अलावा सभी जैविक फसलों के लिए भी MSP की सिफारिश की।

- However, it cautioned that MSP for organic crops should not overshadow the broader demand for MSP based on the Swaminathan formula.

हालांकि, समिति ने चेतावनी दी कि जैविक फसलों के MSP की मांग स्वामीनाथन फॉर्मूले पर आधारित व्यापक MSP की मांग को कमजोर नहीं करनी चाहिए।

Conclusion: Strengthening Agricultural Policies

निष्कर्ष: कृषि नीतियों को मजबूत बनाना

- The committee's recommendations aim to recognize farm labourers, improve agricultural funding, and ensure fair pricing for farmers.

समिति की सिफारिशों का उद्देश्य कृषि श्रमिकों को मान्यता देना, कृषि निधि प्रबंधन में सुधार करना और किसानों को उचित मूल्य सुनिश्चित करना है।

- The Centre's response to these suggestions will determine future agricultural policies and welfare measures.

इन सिफारिशों पर केंद्र की प्रतिक्रिया भविष्य की कृषि नीतियों और कल्याणकारी उपायों को तय करेगी।



Popularise fortified grain scheme especially in States with rice-heavy diets: panel

GS Paper III: Agriculture

NEW DELHI

Even as civil society organisations are raising concerns over fortified rice, the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution headed by DMK MP Kanimozhi has recommended the Centre to ensure meticulous implementation of the scheme of distribution of fortified rice across the country, with particular emphasis on the States where rice is a staple food.

The panel hoped that such a step will contribute to eradicate malnutrition, improving the overall health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

A report of the panel, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, observed that there are differences between



Kanimozhi

the revised estimates and actual expenditure under the capital section of the Budget during 2024-25 and recommended the Ministry to adopt a more accurate and informed approach while preparing future budgetary estimates.

It asked the Union Food Ministry to manage and monitor funds allocated for food subsidy carefully to ensure reach of free foodgrains to the intended

beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) with minimum wastage.

It expressed concern that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not achieved its physical as well as financial targets set for setting up of godowns for storage during the past three years.

It recommended the Centre to formulate an implementation strategy to achieve the targets and solve these issues effectively and in a timely manner.

The committee, in another report, called for an immediate action to fill vacancies in consumer commissions at the State and district levels, addressing staffing gaps to improve the functioning of the Strengthening of Consumer Commissions (SCC) Scheme.

Popularise Fortified Grain Scheme, Especially in States with Rice-Heavy Diets: Panel

किलेबंद अनाज योजना को विशेष

रूप से चावल-प्रधान राज्यों में

लोकप्रिय बनाएं: पैनल

Recommendation to Expand Fortified Rice Distribution

किलेबंद चावल वितरण का विस्तार

करने की सिफारिश

- The Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, chaired by DMK MP Kanimozhi, has recommended the Centre to ensure effective implementation of the fortified rice distribution scheme.

उपभोक्ता मामलों, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण पर स्थायी समिति, जिसकी अध्यक्षता डीएमके

सांसद कनिमोझी कर रही हैं, ने केंद्र सरकार से किलेबंद चावल वितरण योजना के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन की सिफारिश की है।

- Special emphasis should be placed on States where rice is a staple food, to combat malnutrition and improve public health.

विशेष रूप से उन राज्यों में ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाना चाहिए जहां चावल मुख्य भोजन है, ताकि कुपोषण को कम किया जा सके और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य में सुधार किया जा सके।

Concerns Over Budget Allocations and Spending

बजटीय आवंटन और खर्च पर चिंता

- The panel noted discrepancies between revised estimates and actual expenditure in the capital section of the 2024-25 Budget.

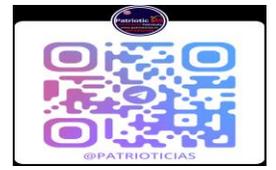
समिति ने 2024-25 के बजट के पूंजीगत खंड में संशोधित अनुमान और वास्तविक खर्च के बीच विसंगतियों को नोट किया।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- It recommended that the **Ministry should adopt a more accurate approach** while preparing future **budgetary estimates**.
समिति ने सिफारिश की कि भविष्य में बजटीय अनुमान तैयार करते समय मंत्रालय को अधिक सटीक दृष्टिकोण अपनाना चाहिए।

Efficient Management of Food Subsidy Funds

खाद्य सब्सिडी निधियों का कुशल प्रबंधन

- The **Union Food Ministry** should ensure **careful monitoring and management of food subsidy funds** to minimize **wastage**.
केंद्रीय खाद्य मंत्रालय को खाद्य सब्सिडी निधियों की सावधानीपूर्वक निगरानी और प्रबंधन सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए ताकि व्यर्थता को कम किया जा सके।
- The goal is to ensure that **free foodgrains reach intended beneficiaries** under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**.
उद्देश्य यह है कि राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA) के तहत मुफ्त खाद्यान्न सही लाभार्थियों तक पहुंचे।

Concerns Over Storage Infrastructure

भंडारण अवसंरचना पर चिंता

- The panel expressed concern that the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** has failed to **achieve its storage infrastructure targets** over the past **three years**.
समिति ने खाद्य निगम of इंडिया (FCI) द्वारा पिछले तीन वर्षों में भंडारण अवसंरचना के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफलता पर चिंता व्यक्त की।
- It recommended the **Centre to develop an implementation strategy to resolve these issues in a timely manner**.
इसने समस्याओं को समय पर हल करने के लिए केंद्र को कार्यान्वयन रणनीति विकसित करने की सिफारिश की।

Addressing Vacancies in Consumer Commissions

उपभोक्ता आयोगों में रिक्तियों को भरने की सिफारिश

- The committee called for **immediate action to fill vacancies in consumer commissions** at both **State and district levels**.
समिति ने राज्य और जिला स्तर पर उपभोक्ता आयोगों में रिक्तियों को भरने के लिए त्वरित कार्रवाई करने की मांग की।
- This will **improve the functioning of the Strengthening of Consumer Commissions (SCC) Scheme**.
यह उपभोक्ता आयोगों को मजबूत करने की योजना (SCC) के कार्य को प्रभावी बनाएगा।



Conclusion: Strengthening Public Welfare Through Fortified Food Distribution

निष्कर्ष: किलेबंद खाद्यान्न वितरण के माध्यम से जनकल्याण को सुदृढ़ करना

- The recommendations focus on **improving food security, reducing malnutrition, and ensuring proper fund utilization.**
सिफारिशों का उद्देश्य खाद्य सुरक्षा में सुधार, कुपोषण को कम करना और निधियों के उचित उपयोग को सुनिश्चित करना है।
- The **Centre's response to these suggestions** will be crucial in shaping future food distribution and subsidy policies.
इन सिफारिशों पर केंद्र की प्रतिक्रिया भविष्य की खाद्यान्न वितरण और सब्सिडी नीतियों को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण होगी।

Cong., DMK MPs walk out of LS over nod to project near Pakistan border

GS Paper III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam members walked out of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday to express their dissatisfaction with the reply given by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on reported clearance granted to a renewable energy project near the India-Pakistan border.

Asking a supplementary question during Question Hour, Congress leader Manish Tewari said national security and energy security had to go hand in hand. Though he did not name any particular group, his question was in connection with a news report in *The Guardian* last month that the government had changed security regulations on the India-Pakistan border in Gujarat to allow the Adani Group to set up a renewable energy park.

Mr. Tewari said the mixed renewable energy project would run up to a kilometre of the International Border, and noted that as per security protocol, any big infrastructure project should be at least 10 km from the border. He



Seeking answers: Opposition MPs walking out from the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

asked whether any relaxation had been granted to the proposed project.

Mr. Joshi, the Minister for New and Renewable Energy, said all approvals and licences to any proposal are granted after obtaining clearances from the Centre, the State, and relevant agencies.

Upset with the reply, the Congress members trooped into the Well of the House and started raising slogans on national security. When Speaker Om Birla refused to take note of their protest, the Congress and DMK members staged a walkout.

Separately, the Congress

asked up alleged links of the Adani Group with some shell companies in Mauritius. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a state visit to the island nation.

Shell companies

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on the social media platform X, targeted the government for "failing" to investigate charges of money laundering. He said Mauritius was an important financial centre and a long-time ally of India. "However, the relationship was tarnished by credible allegations that shell companies in Mauriti-

us were used by Adani and his associates to engage in large-scale money-laundering, round-tripping, and tax evasion," he said.

Mr. Ramesh said a Supreme Court-monitored SEBI investigation that was supposed to take two months has gone on for two years "in part because of its failure to obtain information from foreign jurisdictions involved in the Adani MegaScam".

"Rather than encourage his counterparts to share the information needed to prosecute the financial skulduggery of his close friends, we fear that he will continue to protect them via acts of omission and commission," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

He also alleged that "this wholesale capture" of the Indian economy and its leading institutions "explains why the biggest corruption scam in Indian history has yet to achieve closure".

"It explains how and why election tampering has occurred in Maharashtra and elsewhere. The answer can only be a full-scale investigation by a JPC," the Congress leader said.

Cong., DMK MPs Walk Out of LS Over Nod to Project Near Pakistan Border

पाकिस्तान सीमा के पास परियोजना को मंजूरी पर कांग्रेस, डीएमके सांसदों का लोकसभा से

वाकआउट

Opposition Protests Over Renewable Energy Project Near Border

सीमा के पास नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजना को लेकर विपक्ष का विरोध

- Congress and DMK MPs walked out of Lok Sabha on



Wednesday to protest against Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's reply regarding the clearance of a renewable energy project near the India-Pakistan border.

बुधवार को कांग्रेस और डीएमके सांसदों ने लोकसभा से वाकआउट किया, क्योंकि केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी ने भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा के पास नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजना को मंजूरी देने पर जवाब दिया।

- Congress leader Manish Tewari questioned whether national security was being compromised by allowing the project just 1 km from the border, despite security norms requiring a minimum 10 km buffer zone.

कांग्रेस नेता मनीष तिवारी ने सवाल उठाया कि क्या राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा से समझौता किया जा रहा है, क्योंकि यह परियोजना सीमा से मात्र 1 किमी दूर स्थित है, जबकि सुरक्षा मानकों के अनुसार कम से कम 10 किमी का बफर ज़ोन आवश्यक है।

- The project was reported by The Guardian, which claimed that the government relaxed security rules in Gujarat to allow the Adani Group to establish a renewable energy park.

द गार्जियन की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, सरकार ने गुजरात में सुरक्षा नियमों में ढील दी, जिससे अदानी समूह को नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा पार्क स्थापित करने की अनुमति मिली।

Government's Response and Opposition's Walkout

सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया और विपक्ष का वाकआउट

- Minister Pralhad Joshi stated that all approvals and licenses for projects are given only after security clearances from central, state, and relevant agencies.

मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी ने कहा कि सभी मंजूरी और लाइसेंस केवल केंद्र, राज्य और संबंधित एजेंसियों से सुरक्षा मंजूरी मिलने के बाद दिए जाते हैं।

- Dissatisfied with the response, Congress MPs protested in the Well of the House, raising slogans on national security.

उत्तर से असंतुष्ट कांग्रेस सांसदों ने सदन के वेल में विरोध किया, और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा पर नारेबाजी की।

- When Speaker Om Birla refused to consider their protest, Congress and DMK MPs walked out.

जब लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने उनके विरोध को स्वीकार नहीं किया, तो कांग्रेस और डीएमके सांसदों ने वाकआउट किया।

Congress Raises Allegations on Adani Group's Offshore Deals

कांग्रेस ने अदानी समूह के विदेशी लेन-देन पर आरोप लगाए

- Congress also targeted the Adani Group, alleging its links with shell companies in Mauritius.

कांग्रेस ने अदानी समूह पर हमला करते हुए कहा कि उसकी मॉरीशस में शेल कंपनियों से सांठगांठ है।

- Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused the government of failing to investigate money laundering allegations against Adani.

कांग्रेस नेता जयराम रमेश ने सरकार पर अदानी के खिलाफ मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग के आरोपों की जांच करने में



विफल रहने का आरोप लगाया।

- He stated that **Mauritius-based shell companies** were allegedly used for **large-scale money laundering, round-tripping, and tax evasion.**
उन्होंने कहा कि मॉरीशस स्थित शेल कंपनियों का उपयोग बड़े पैमाने पर मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग, राउंड-ट्रिपिंग और कर चोरी के लिए किया गया था।

Demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) Investigation

संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (JPC) जांच की मांग

- **Jairam Ramesh** accused **PM Modi** of protecting Adani by **delaying the SEBI investigation**, which was supposed to conclude in **two months** but has been pending for **two years.**
जयराम रमेश ने आरोप लगाया कि पीएम मोदी अदानी की रक्षा कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि SEBI की जांच, जो दो महीने में पूरी होनी थी, दो साल से लंबित है।
- He alleged that **the Indian economy and institutions were being captured by select businessmen**, leading to the **biggest financial scam in India's history.**
उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था और संस्थानों पर चुनिंदा उद्योगपतियों का कब्जा हो रहा है, जिससे भारत के इतिहास में सबसे बड़ा वित्तीय घोटाला हुआ है।
- **Congress demanded a full-scale JPC investigation** to probe the alleged **corruption and election manipulation.**
कांग्रेस ने संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (JPC) द्वारा पूर्ण जांच की मांग की, ताकि भ्रष्टाचार और चुनावी धांधली के आरोपों की जांच हो सके।

Conclusion: Ongoing Political and Legal Controversy

निष्कर्ष: चल रहा राजनीतिक और कानूनी विवाद

- The issue of **national security, Adani Group's business deals, and alleged money laundering** continues to spark political controversy.
राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, अदानी समूह के व्यापारिक सौदे और कथित मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग का मुद्दा राजनीतिक विवाद का कारण बना हुआ है।
- The **government maintains that all approvals are given following security procedures**, while the **opposition demands an independent investigation.**
सरकार का कहना है कि सभी मंजूरी सुरक्षा प्रक्रियाओं के तहत दी जाती हैं, जबकि विपक्ष स्वतंत्र जांच की मांग कर रहा है।
- The **demand for a JPC probe is likely to intensify political tensions in Parliament.**
JPC जांच की मांग से संसद में राजनीतिक तनाव और बढ़ सकता है।



Lok Sabha passes Bill to boost investments in oil and gas sector

GS Paper III: Investment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Bill that seeks to amend the existing law governing exploration and production of oil and gas as well as delink petroleum operations from mining operations was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, is aimed at boosting investment in the sector. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in December.

Replying to the debate before the passage of the Bill, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India was the only country where in the reference period of the past three years, the prices of petrol and diesel had actually come down. This had been possible because “the Prime Minister reduced the central excise (duty) on two occasions.”

Mr. Puri said that Congress-ruled States have increased VAT (value-added tax) on petrol and diesel.

“The oil Bill aims to resolve one of the biggest grievances of global oil companies interested in investing in India by providing stability in operation, both in terms of tenure of the lease and the condition. The Bill also does not alter the rights of the

It aims to resolve grievances of global firms interested in investing by ensuring stability in operation

States, which will continue to give petroleum leases and receive royalties as before. The Bill also does not alter the existing level-playing field and offers no preference to either the private or the public sector,” the Minister said.

Among others, the Bill aims to decriminalise some of the provisions of the original Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, by introducing “penalties, adjudication by an adjudicating authority and appeal as against the order of adjudicating authority”.

Lacks vision, says Cong. Earlier, Congress MP Manish Tewari said the draft Bill lacked vision and a road map.

Referring to oil imports, Mr. Tewari said that India was not “future ready”.

“What is required is a road map to make India energy sufficient, which unfortunately is completely missing. What is the government planning to do to encourage independent oil explorers? Is there anything in the Bill that incentivises them,” he asked.

Lok Sabha passes Bill to boost investments in oil and gas sector

तेल और गैस क्षेत्र में निवेश बढ़ाने के लिए

लोकसभा ने विधेयक पारित किया

A Bill that seeks to amend the existing law governing exploration and production of oil and gas as well as delink petroleum operations from mining operations was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

एक विधेयक, जो तेल और गैस की खोज और उत्पादन को विनियमित करने वाले मौजूदा कानून में संशोधन करने और पेट्रोलियम संचालन को खनन संचालन से अलग करने की मांग करता है, बुधवार को लोकसभा में पारित हुआ।

• The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 is aimed at boosting investment in the sector.

ऑयलफील्ड्स (नियमन और विकास) संशोधन विधेयक, 2024 का उद्देश्य इस क्षेत्र में निवेश को बढ़ावा देना है।

• The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in December.

यह विधेयक दिसंबर में राज्यसभा द्वारा पारित किया गया था।

Minister's statement on fuel prices

ईंधन कीमतों पर मंत्री का बयान

• Before the passage of the Bill, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri stated that India was the only country where in the past three years, petrol and diesel prices had actually come down.

विधेयक पारित होने से पहले, केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि भारत ही एकमात्र देश था, जहां पिछले तीन वर्षों में पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतें वास्तव में कम हुईं।



- He credited this to the **Prime Minister reducing central excise duty on two occasions.**
उन्होंने इसका श्रेय प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा दो बार केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क कम करने को दिया।
- Mr. Puri also stated that **Congress-ruled States have increased VAT (Value-Added Tax) on petrol and diesel.**
श्री पुरी ने यह भी कहा कि कांग्रेस-शासित राज्यों ने पेट्रोल और डीजल पर वैट (मूल्य संवर्धित कर) बढ़ाया है।

Objectives of the Bill

विधेयक के उद्देश्य

- The oil Bill aims to resolve one of the biggest grievances of global oil companies interested in investing in India by **providing stability in operations.**
यह तेल विधेयक भारत में निवेश करने की इच्छुक वैश्विक तेल कंपनियों की सबसे बड़ी शिकायतों में से एक को हल करने का प्रयास करता है, जिससे संचालन में स्थिरता प्रदान की जा सके।
- It provides **stability in both tenure of the lease and operational conditions.**
यह पट्टे की अवधि और संचालन की शर्तों दोनों में स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करता है।
- The Bill **does not alter the rights of States**, which will continue to **grant petroleum leases and receive royalties as before.**
यह विधेयक राज्यों के अधिकारों को प्रभावित नहीं करता, और वे पहले की तरह पेट्रोलियम पट्टे जारी कर सकते हैं और रॉयल्टी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- It also **maintains a level-playing field** and does not favor either the private or the public sector.
यह संतुलित प्रतिस्पर्धा सुनिश्चित करता है और निजी या सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में किसी को भी प्राथमिकता नहीं देता।

Decriminalization of provisions

विधेयक में अपराध मुक्त किए गए प्रावधान

- The Bill aims to **decriminalize some provisions of the original Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.**
यह विधेयक मूल ऑयलफील्ड्स (नियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1948 के कुछ प्रावधानों को अपराध मुक्त करने का प्रयास करता है।
- It introduces **penalties, adjudication by an adjudicating authority, and an appeal mechanism** against decisions.
यह दंड, एक निर्णय अधिकारी द्वारा निर्णय और निर्णय के खिलाफ अपील की प्रक्रिया को शामिल करता है।



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

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

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Congress criticism: Bill lacks vision

कांग्रेस की आलोचना: विधेयक में दृष्टिकोण की कमी

- Congress MP Manish Tewari criticized the Bill, stating that it lacked vision and a road map.
कांग्रेस सांसद मनीष तिवारी ने विधेयक की आलोचना करते हुए कहा कि इसमें दृष्टि और रोडमैप की कमी है।
- Referring to India's oil imports, he said that India was not "future ready".
भारत के तेल आयात का जिक्र करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि भारत भविष्य के लिए तैयार नहीं है।
- He stated that India needs a road map to become energy sufficient, which is completely missing in this Bill.
उन्होंने कहा कि भारत को ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भर बनने के लिए एक रोडमैप की आवश्यकता है, जो इस विधेयक में पूरी तरह से गायब है।
- He questioned whether the Bill provides any incentives for independent oil explorers.
उन्होंने पूछा कि क्या यह विधेयक स्वतंत्र तेल अन्वेषकों के लिए कोई प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करता है।

After Bharti, Jio allies with Musk's SpaceX for Starlink net services

GS Paper III: Starlink Net Services
MUMBAI

A day after Bharti Airtel signed a pact with American billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX to offer Starlink's high speed internet broadband services to customers in India, Reliance Industries' Jio Platforms Ltd (JPL) followed suit.

Jio platforms would offer Starlink services with the pact subject to SpaceX receiving authorisations to sell Starlink in India.

Jio would make available Starlink solutions through retail outlets as well as online storefronts.

Jio will not only offer Starlink equipment at its retail outlets but establish a mechanism to support customer services, Jio said.

"Starlink complements JioAirFiber and JioFiber by extending high speed Internet to the most challenging of locations in a quick and affordable manner," Jio added.

Jio and SpaceX are also evaluating other complementary areas of cooperation to leverage respective infrastructure to boost India's digital ecosystem.

"Ensuring every Indian, no matter where they live, has access to affordable and high-speed broadband remains Jio's top priority," said Mathew Oommen, Group CEO, Reliance Jio.

"We applaud Jio's commitment to advancing India's connectivity," said Gwynne Shotwell, president and chief operating officer, SpaceX.

After Bharti, Jio allies with Musk's SpaceX for Starlink net services

भारती के बाद, जियो ने मस्क की स्पेसएक्स के साथ स्टारलिंग नेट सेवाओं के लिए साझेदारी की

A day after Bharti Airtel signed a pact with Elon Musk's SpaceX to offer Starlink's high-speed broadband services in India, Reliance Jio Platforms Ltd (JPL) followed suit.

भारती एयरटेल द्वारा एलन मस्क की स्पेसएक्स के साथ भारत में स्टारलिंग की हाई-स्पीड ब्रॉडबैंड सेवाओं की पेशकश के लिए समझौता करने के एक दिन बाद, रिलायंस जियो प्लेटफॉर्म लिमिटेड (JPL) ने भी यही कदम उठाया।

- Jio Platforms will offer Starlink services, subject to SpaceX receiving necessary authorizations to sell Starlink in India.

जियो प्लेटफॉर्म स्टारलिंग सेवाएं प्रदान करेगा, बशर्ते स्पेसएक्स को भारत में स्टारलिंग बेचने के लिए आवश्यक अनुमतियां मिल जाएं।

Jio's retail and service plans for Starlink

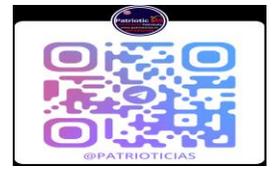
स्टारलिंग के लिए जियो की खुदरा और सेवा योजनाएँ

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

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



- Jio will make Starlink solutions available through retail outlets and online storefronts.
जियो अपने खुदरा स्टोर्स और ऑनलाइन स्टोर्स के माध्यम से स्टारलिनक समाधानों को उपलब्ध कराएगा।
- Jio will not only offer Starlink equipment at its retail outlets but also set up a mechanism for customer support services.
जियो न केवल अपने खुदरा स्टोर्स पर स्टारलिनक उपकरण प्रदान करेगा, बल्कि ग्राहकों के लिए सहायता सेवा तंत्र भी स्थापित करेगा।
- Starlink complements JioAirFiber and JioFiber by providing high-speed internet in difficult-to-reach locations at an affordable price.
स्टारलिनक, जियोएयरफाइबर और जियोफाइबर का पूरक है, क्योंकि यह कठिन स्थानों में तेज़ और किफायती इंटरनेट सेवाएं प्रदान करता है।

Exploring further collaboration

आगे की साझेदारी की संभावनाएँ

- Jio and SpaceX are evaluating other areas of cooperation to leverage infrastructure and boost India's digital ecosystem.
जियो और स्पेसएक्स अन्य सहयोग क्षेत्रों की संभावनाओं की जांच कर रहे हैं, ताकि संरचना का अधिकतम उपयोग कर भारत के डिजिटल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को मजबूत किया जा सके।
- Jio's top priority is to ensure that every Indian has access to affordable and high-speed broadband, regardless of location, said Mathew Oommen, Group CEO, Reliance Jio.
रिलायंस जियो के ग्रुप सीईओ मैथ्यू ओमेन ने कहा कि हर भारतीय को सस्ती और हाई-स्पीड ब्रॉडबैंड सुविधा मिले, यह जियो की शीर्ष प्राथमिकता है।
- "We applaud Jio's commitment to advancing India's connectivity," said Gwynne Shotwell, President & COO, SpaceX.
स्पेसएक्स की अध्यक्ष और सीओओ ग्विन शॉटवेल ने कहा, "हम भारत की कनेक्टिविटी को आगे बढ़ाने की जियो की प्रतिबद्धता की सराहना करते हैं।"



Industrial output growth hastens to 8-month high of 5%

January's growth was led by an expansion in manufacturing activity which grew at 5.5% and mining and quarrying that expanded by 4.4%; however, consumer durables logged a slower 7.2%

**GS Paper III:
Industries**

आसोकान्तुराण र.
MUMBAI

Industrial output growth quickened to an eight-month high of 5% in January on expansion in manufacturing and mining sectors, according to data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) released on Wednesday.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had come in at 3.55 in December.

January's growth was led by an expansion in manufacturing which rose 5.5% and mining and quarrying that expanded by 4.4% in reporting month. The sectors grew at a slower pace of 3.4% and 2.7% respectively in December.

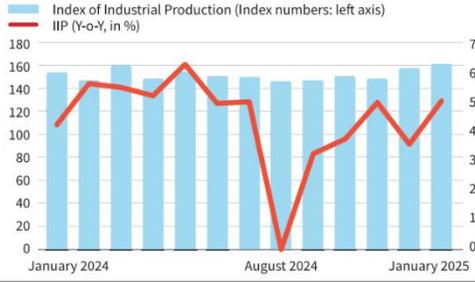
The faster pace of growth in the two sectors compensated for the slow-

Positive trend

Primary goods output growth quickened to 5.5% from 3.8% in December



Source: CMIE



down in the electricity sector that expanded at a slower pace of 2.4% against 6.2% in December.

Slowdown impact

Going by use-based classification, barring primary goods and consumer goods, most sectors experienced slowdown in output growth.

Primary goods output growth quickened to 5.5% in January from 3.8% a month ago. Consumer goods sector output increased at a pace of 2.6%, as against December reading, when output had shrunk 2%. Output in consumer durables sector expanded at the slowest pace in three months at 7.2%

against 8.3% in December and 14.1% in November.

"IIP growth at 5% is impressive as it also involves manufacturing growing at 5.5%," wrote Madan Sabnavis chief economist, Bank of Baroda, in a note.

"For the full year, growth can be expected to be between 5-5.5% if these trends are maintained."

Industrial output growth hastens to 8-month high of 5%

औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि 8 महीनों के उच्चतम स्तर 5% पर पहुंची

Industrial output growth reached 5% in January, the highest in eight months, driven by expansion in manufacturing and mining sectors, according to National Statistics Office (NSO) data released on Wednesday.

जनवरी में औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि 5% तक पहुंच गई, जो आठ महीनों में सबसे अधिक है। यह वृद्धि विनिर्माण और खनन क्षेत्रों के विस्तार के कारण हुई, नेशनल स्टैटिस्टिक्स ऑफिस (NSO) द्वारा बुधवार को जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार।

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was 3.5% in December.
दिसंबर में औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) 3.5% था।

Sector-wise performance

क्षेत्रवार प्रदर्शन

- Manufacturing sector grew by 5.5%, while mining and quarrying expanded by 4.4% in January.
विनिर्माण क्षेत्र 5.5% की वृद्धि के साथ आगे बढ़ा, जबकि खनन और उत्खनन जनवरी में 4.4% की वृद्धि के साथ बढ़े।



- In December, these sectors had grown at a slower pace of 3.4% and 2.7% respectively.
दिसंबर में, इन क्षेत्रों की वृद्धि दर 3.4% और 2.7% थी, जो अपेक्षाकृत कम थी।
- The electricity sector slowed down, expanding at 2.4% in January, compared to 6.2% in December.
बिजली क्षेत्र की वृद्धि जनवरी में घटकर 2.4% रही, जबकि दिसंबर में यह 6.2% थी।

Impact of slowdown

मंदी का प्रभाव

- Based on use-based classification, primary goods and consumer goods showed growth, while most other sectors experienced a slowdown.
उपयोग-आधारित वर्गीकरण के अनुसार, प्राथमिक और उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, जबकि अन्य अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में मंदी देखी गई।
- Primary goods output grew at 5.5% in January, up from 3.8% in December.
प्राथमिक वस्तुओं की उत्पादन वृद्धि जनवरी में 5.5% तक पहुंच गई, जो दिसंबर में 3.8% थी।
- Consumer goods sector output rose by 2.6%, compared to a 2% contraction in December.
उपभोक्ता वस्तु क्षेत्र की उत्पादन वृद्धि 2.6% रही, जबकि दिसंबर में यह 2% संकुचित हुई थी।
- Consumer durables sector grew at the slowest pace in three months, at 7.2%, compared to 8.3% in December and 14.1% in November.
उपभोक्ता टिकाऊ वस्तु क्षेत्र की वृद्धि तीन महीनों में सबसे धीमी रही, 7.2%, जबकि दिसंबर में यह 8.3% और नवंबर में 14.1% थी।

Expert analysis

विशेषज्ञों का विश्लेषण

- "IIP growth at 5% is impressive, especially with manufacturing growing at 5.5%," noted Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda.
"IIP की 5% की वृद्धि प्रभावशाली है, विशेष रूप से विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में 5.5% की वृद्धि के साथ," बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा के मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री मदन सबनवीस ने कहा।
- If current trends continue, annual industrial output growth is expected to be between 5-5.5%.
यदि वर्तमान रुझान जारी रहते हैं, तो पूरे वर्ष की औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि 5-5.5% के बीच रहने की संभावना है।



Feb. equity MF inflows plunge 27% on declining stock market returns

GS Paper III: Capital Market

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Net inflows into equity mutual funds slid 27% in February to ₹29,300 crore amid four months of declining returns from the stock markets, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

This led to a slower 18% rise in Assets Under Management (AUM) of schemes to ₹64.5 lakh crore in the reporting month, the lowest in nine months.

The AUM were about ₹67.5 lakh crore in the previous month. The rate of growth in AUMs in February was also the slowest since October 2023.

The slowdown in AUM growth and inflows into equity mutual funds reflected on Systematic Investment Plans (SIP) contributions and registrations. Monthly SIP contribution reduced for the second consecutive month, coming in at about ₹26,000 crore, a decline of 1.5% from January.

This is also a faster decline than the previous month, when SIP contributions dipped just 0.2% from December inflows.

Total number of SIPs outstanding was 10.1 crore, slightly lower than 10.26 crore in January.

Fresh SIPs dipped to 44.6 lakh, the lowest yet in the fiscal year.

Feb. equity MF inflows plunge 27% on declining stock market returns

फरवरी में इक्विटी म्यूचुअल फंड में निवेश 27% गिरा, स्टॉक मार्केट में गिरावट जारी

Net inflows into equity mutual funds fell by 27% in February to ₹29,300 crore due to four months of declining stock market returns, as per Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data.

फरवरी में इक्विटी म्यूचुअल फंड में शुद्ध निवेश 27% गिरकर ₹29,300 करोड़ हो गया, क्योंकि पिछले चार महीनों से स्टॉक मार्केट में गिरावट जारी है, एसोसिएशन ऑफ म्यूचुअल फंड्स इन इंडिया (AMFI) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार।

Impact on Assets Under Management (AUM)

प्रबंधन अधीन संपत्ति (AUM) पर प्रभाव

- This decline led to a slower 18% rise in AUM to ₹64.5 lakh crore in February, marking the lowest level in nine months.
इस गिरावट के कारण, AUM में वृद्धि की गति धीमी होकर 18% रही, जो फरवरी में ₹64.5 लाख करोड़ तक पहुंची, और पिछले नौ महीनों में सबसे कम स्तर पर रही।
- In January, AUM was about ₹67.5 lakh crore.
जनवरी में, AUM लगभग ₹67.5 लाख करोड़ था।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- The AUM growth rate in February was the slowest since October 2023.
फरवरी में AUM की वृद्धि दर अक्टूबर 2023 के बाद सबसे धीमी रही।

Decline in Systematic Investment Plans (SIP)

सिस्टेमेटिक इन्वेस्टमेंट प्लान (SIP) में गिरावट

- The slowdown in AUM growth and equity mutual fund inflows reflected in SIP contributions and registrations.
AUM वृद्धि और इक्विटी म्यूचुअल फंड में निवेश की मंदी का असर SIP योगदान और पंजीकरण पर भी पड़ा।
- Monthly SIP contribution fell for the second consecutive month to ₹26,000 crore, a 1.5% decline from January.
मासिक SIP योगदान लगातार दूसरे महीने घटकर ₹26,000 करोड़ रह गया, जो जनवरी से 1.5% की गिरावट को दर्शाता है।
- This drop was steeper than in January, when SIP contributions declined by just 0.2% from December inflows.
यह जनवरी की तुलना में अधिक तेज गिरावट थी, जब SIP योगदान में केवल 0.2% की गिरावट हुई थी।

SIP accounts and registrations

SIP खातों और पंजीकरण की स्थिति

- Total number of SIPs outstanding was 10.1 crore, slightly lower than 10.26 crore in January.
कुल SIP खातों की संख्या 10.1 करोड़ रही, जो जनवरी में 10.26 करोड़ थी।
- New SIP registrations dropped to 44.6 lakh, the lowest in the current fiscal year.
नए SIP पंजीकरण घटकर 44.6 लाख रह गए, जो इस वित्तीय वर्ष में सबसे कम हैं।



The mycelia of an oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) growing in a petri dish of ground coffee seeds. TOBI KELLNER

The promise of mycelium bricks against climate change

GS Paper III: S&T

Aditya Arora
NEW DELHI

In the light of climate change, the construction industry like many others is considering how it can reduce its carbon footprint and become more sustainable.

One opportunity is concerned with bricks. Fired clay bricks have been the mainstay of the construction industry but their production also emits nearly 300 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, which could increase with more urbanisation. A new advance on this front is mycelium bricks. Mycelia are the branching filaments of fungi that make up its vegetative part. Researchers have them harnessed to create biodegradable, fire-resistant, and insulative bricks. They are made by combining husk, sawdust, and fungal spores to create a fibrous network that solidifies into a lightweight material. Within a few days, these materials become a hardier structure.

Mycelium bricks have the potential to reduce the building sector's carbon footprint, its proponents have said. They are relatively more lightweight and good insulators of heat. Aside from potential

Proponents of mycelium bricks have said that they have the potential to reduce the building sector's carbon footprint

use as **panelling material in interior designs**, researchers believe mycelium-based components can be used in liquid filters, sports equipment, and printed circuit boards. But before they can find wider use, mycelium materials need to improve in many ways. At present they cannot bear heavier loads for longer periods. One 2020 review found that while mycelium composites have a high strength to weight ratio, it is two orders of magnitude lower than concrete. They are also susceptible to moisture, biodegrade in a few years, and cannot be produced *en masse*. "The cost of growing and treating fungi for construction purposes is currently higher due to lack of infrastructure," Rakesh Jha, a civil engineer and the founder of Patna-based Veritech Infrastructure, said.

While mycelium is naturally fire-resistant, prolonged exposure to heat could cause structural failure. Mycelium composites also absorb more moisture than synthetic foams and plywood, which is inimical for damp environments with leaking walls or roofs. They also do not resist termites. But these are problems to be solved rather than reasons to discard mycelium bricks. For example: "Mycelium can be treated with non-toxic flame retardants that can enhance fire resistance, followed by a UV-protective coating that can prevent photo-degradation in outdoor applications," Jha said. The biggest challenge is consumers' attitude, which experts have said will require more investment in research and development, to make mycelium bricks more competitive with clay bricks, and awareness campaigns to shift.

But thanks to climate change and the advent of concepts like **high-performance buildings**, interest is already growing in alternative and sustainable materials. "This shift along with policy pushes can drive demand for sustainable alternatives and help in growing the market for mycelium," Aditya Srinivas Kandaala, founder of Roha Biotech, a startup incubated at IIT Madras, said.

संरचनाएँ होती हैं, जो कवक का वनस्पति भाग बनाती हैं।

The promise of mycelium bricks against climate change

जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ माइसेलियम ईंटों की संभावनाएँ

The construction industry is exploring ways to reduce its carbon footprint and become more sustainable.

निर्माण उद्योग अपने कार्बन फुटप्रिंट को कम करने और अधिक टिकाऊ बनने के तरीकों पर विचार कर रहा है।

• **Fired clay bricks**, a staple of the construction industry, **emit nearly 300 million tonnes of CO₂ annually**, which may increase with **urbanization**. पकी हुई मिट्टी की ईंटें, जो निर्माण उद्योग की मुख्य सामग्री हैं, हर साल लगभग 300 मिलियन टन CO₂ उत्सर्जित करती हैं, और शहरीकरण के बढ़ने के साथ यह बढ़ सकता है।

What are mycelium bricks? माइसेलियम ईंटें क्या हैं?

• **Mycelia are branching filaments of fungi**, forming the **vegetative part of fungi**.

माइसेलिया कवक (फंगस) की शाखित तंतु



- Researchers have used mycelia to create biodegradable, fire-resistant, and insulative bricks.
**शोधकर्ताओं ने माइसेलियम का उपयोग करके बायोडिग्रेडेबल (जैव-अवघटनीय), अग्नि-रोधी और इंसुलेटिव ईंटें बनाई हैं।
- These bricks are made by combining husk, sawdust, and fungal spores, which develop into a fibrous network that solidifies into a lightweight material.
ये ईंटें भूसी, आरा धूल और कवकीय बीजाणुओं को मिलाकर बनाई जाती हैं, जिससे एक तंतुयुक्त संरचना बनती है, जो कुछ दिनों में कठोर और हल्की हो जाती है।

Advantages of mycelium bricks

माइसेलियम ईंटों के फायदे

- Lower carbon footprint than traditional bricks.
पारंपरिक ईंटों की तुलना में कम कार्बन फुटप्रिंट।
- Lightweight and good heat insulators.
हल्की होती हैं और अच्छी गर्मी इंसुलेटिंग क्षमता रखती हैं।
- Potential applications include interior panelling, liquid filters, sports equipment, and printed circuit boards.
संभावित उपयोगों में आंतरिक पैनेलिंग, तरल फिल्टर, खेल उपकरण और प्रिंटेड सर्किट बोर्ड शामिल हैं।

Challenges in using mycelium bricks

माइसेलियम ईंटों के उपयोग में चुनौतियाँ

- Cannot bear heavy loads for long durations.
भारी भार को लंबे समय तक सहन नहीं कर सकतीं।
- A 2020 study found that mycelium composites have a high strength-to-weight ratio, but it is two orders of magnitude lower than concrete.
2020 के एक अध्ययन के अनुसार, माइसेलियम समुच्चय का उच्च शक्ति-से-वजन अनुपात होता है, लेकिन यह कंक्रीट की तुलना में दो गुना कम होता है।
- Susceptible to moisture and biodegrades within a few years.
नमी के प्रति संवेदनशील और कुछ वर्षों में जैव-अवघटन (बायोडिग्रेड) हो जाती हैं।
- Cannot be mass-produced due to lack of infrastructure, making current costs higher.
समुचित बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी के कारण बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन संभव नहीं, जिससे मौजूदा लागत अधिक है।
- Not termite-resistant and absorbs more moisture than synthetic foams and plywood.
दीमक-रोधी नहीं होती और सिंथेटिक फोम या प्लाइवुड की तुलना में अधिक नमी अवशोषित करती है।



Possible solutions for mycelium brick challenges

माइसेलियम ईंटों की चुनौतियों के समाधान

- Fire resistance can be improved with non-toxic flame retardants and UV-protective coatings.
अग्नि-प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को गैर-विषैले फ्लेम रिटार्डेंट्स और UV-संरक्षण कोटिंग्स से बढ़ाया जा सकता है।
- Investment in research and development is needed to improve strength and durability.
मजबूती और स्थायित्व बढ़ाने के लिए अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) में निवेश की आवश्यकता है।
- Awareness campaigns and policy support can help increase adoption.
जागरूकता अभियानों और नीतिगत समर्थन से इनका उपयोग बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

Future of mycelium bricks

माइसेलियम ईंटों का भविष्य

- Growing interest in sustainable alternatives due to climate change and high-performance building concepts.
जलवायु परिवर्तन और उच्च-प्रदर्शन भवन अवधारणाओं के कारण टिकाऊ विकल्पों में रुचि बढ़ रही है।
- Policy pushes and demand for eco-friendly materials could drive the growth of mycelium-based construction.
नीतिगत प्रोत्साहन और पर्यावरण-अनुकूल सामग्रियों की बढ़ती मांग से माइसेलियम आधारित निर्माण को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है।
- “This shift along with policy support can grow the mycelium market,” said Aditya Srinivas Kandaala, founder of Roha Biotech, IIT Madras-incubated startup.
“यह बदलाव और नीतिगत समर्थन मिलकर माइसेलियम बाजार को विकसित कर सकते हैं,” IIT मद्रास में स्थापित Roha Biotech के संस्थापक आदित्य श्रीनिवास कंदाला ने कहा।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. On Perceptions About Europe: Job Prospects and the Russia-Ukraine War

यूरोप के बारे में धारणाएँ: रोजगार के अवसर और रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध



On perceptions about Europe: job prospects and the Russia-Ukraine war

This survey explores Indian's perception about Europe as an attractive destination for both education and employment, reinforcing the perception of long-term career benefits. It also analyses Indian sentiments about the Russia-Ukraine war across different types of cities. These findings suggest that higher education levels strongly correlate with greater awareness

Essay
Yuvli Mishra
Yibha Atri
Krishdhan Sinha
The perception of Europe as a land of better job opportunities has been growing among Indians, particularly among the younger and more educated population. This belief is shaped by multiple factors, including higher wages, career growth prospects, and lifestyle advantages. A well-established Indian diaspora in Europe significantly influences migration aspirations. Many Indians have relatives or acquaintances who have settled in European countries, which influences their perception of employment prospects. Word-of-mouth recommendations, social media influence, and success stories of Indian expatriates contribute to a positive image of working in Europe. Many Indian students pursue higher education in European universities, which often provide post-study work opportunities. As a result, Europe remains an attractive destination for both education and employment, reinforcing the perception that the region offers long-term career benefits. This article explores the reasons behind this perception, drawing on data collected by the Loknit-CSIIS in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

Employment opportunities
A substantial proportion of Indians (70%) believe that Europe offers better employment opportunities than India (Table 1). This perception is especially pronounced in smaller towns, where job prospects are relatively limited. Nearly three in four (72%) respondents from small cities believe that Europe provides better job opportunities compared to three in five in mid-sized and big cities (Table 2). The attraction to the European job market stems from the presence of structured career growth opportunities, professional development programs, and access to high-skilled jobs that may not be as readily available in India. Moreover, countries such as Germany, the UK, and France have introduced policies that encourage skilled migration.

Additionally, according to the survey, nearly 62% of respondents believe that workers in Europe earn more than their Indian counterparts for the same work (Table 3). This wage disparity is reinforced by personal narratives, as individuals with family or relatives in Europe are more likely to perceive a substantial difference in earnings. Nearly three in four (72%) respondents in their family members working abroad believe that people in Europe earn more for the same work, compared to three in five among those without such family connections (Table 4). Indian professionals and skilled workers believe that their skills are valued more highly in European job markets, where competitive salaries, social security benefits, and better working conditions provide strong financial incentives.

The aspiration for better employment prospects has led many Indians to consider relocating to Europe. Nearly one in six (16%) respondents in the survey reported plans to apply for a work visa to Europe, while some have already initiated the process. Among those seeking employment abroad, the key motivations include higher wages (58%), career growth opportunities (21%), and access to developed infrastructure (7%) (Table 5). Beyond employment and wages, lifestyle factors also influence perceptions of Europe as a desirable work destination. More than half (55%) of survey respondents believe that life in Europe is more comfortable than in India whereas a little over one in four (27%) don't agree with this. This belief is strongest among younger (60%) and highly educated individuals (57%), while it declines with age and lower education levels. Factors contributing to this perception include access to superior healthcare, better public infrastructure, and social welfare benefits. Exposure to Western media, including films and social media, has reinforced the idea that Europe offers a higher standard of living (Table 6).

On the Russia-Ukraine war
The Russia-Ukraine war continues to significantly impact global geopolitics. And as the war enters its fourth year, it is important to understand Indian public opinion on Russia's actions, which seems to remain complex and fractured. When asked about the issue, 27% of respondents believed that Russia's actions were

necessary, while a larger section, 34%, viewed them as unjustified. However, a notable proportion of respondents, 23%, admitted to being unaware of the issue. This lack of awareness highlights a significant knowledge gap among Indians when it comes to international affairs. Furthermore, 16% of respondents chose not to express an opinion on the matter (Table 7). These findings collectively underscore the complexity and diversity of Indian perspectives on Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Education and awareness
The study yielded a significant finding regarding the impact of education in shaping public opinion about the war (Table 8). Among respondents with limited or no formal education, a substantial 42% were unaware about the issue. Moreover, only 19% of this group viewed Russia's actions as unjustified, suggesting a relatively low level of engagement with international affairs. In the case of respondents with intermediate/under graduate level of education, there was a significant proportion who believed that Russia's actions were necessary (27%), followed by another 27% of respondents not being aware about the war and 23% of the respondents believing Russia's actions are unjustified. In contrast, respondents with a college education exhibited a markedly different profile. A significant 48% of this group criticised Russia's actions, indicating a stronger stance on the issue. Furthermore, only 16% of college-educated respondents were unaware of the conflict, highlighting a substantially higher level of awareness and engagement with global events.

These findings suggest that higher education levels strongly correlate with greater awareness, critical thinking, and opinion formation on global issues. Exposure to the Western world through different mediums emerged as a significant factor in shaping Indian perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict as highlighted in Table 9. Respondents with no exposure to Western entertainment were more likely to be unaware about the conflict (31%) or refrained from expressing an opinion (27%). There was a comparatively small per cent of respondents with no exposure to film but Russia's actions were necessary at 16%, in contrast to 28% who considered the actions unjustified. In contrast, individuals with moderate exposure to western entertainment exhibited more defined views. Notably, those with moderate exposure were more likely to view Russia's actions as unjustified at 44% in contrast to 32% considering it necessary. Those with high exposure were almost equally divided between viewing Russia's actions as necessary (39%) and 37% considering it unjustified. These findings suggest that familiarity with Western media may have played a role in shaping perspectives on the conflict, highlighting the influence of global media on public opinion.

The study also explored how opinions on the Russia-Ukraine conflict varied across cities of different sizes as highlighted in Table 10. Interestingly, the data revealed that respondents from smaller cities were the most critical of Russia's actions, with a significant 41% deeming them unjustified. In the case of mid-sized cities, 31% considered Russia's action as unjustified and 26% considered it justified. Among respondents from big cities, 38% considered Russia's actions necessary, and 32% considered Russia's action as unjustified. There was also a percentage of respondents across different city types who had no opinion on Russia's action, with 18% in small cities, 16% in mid-sized cities and 17% in big cities. The findings imply that the complexity of urban environments, with their diverse populations and information ecosystems, can lead to a more polarized public discourse on international issues.

These findings underscore the complexity of Indian perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, revealing that socio-economic and cultural factors significantly influence public opinion. These factors contribute to a nuanced public discourse, highlighting the diversity of perspectives within society. The authors are researchers at Loknit-CSIIS. This analysis is based on data collected during a comprehensive study on Indian Perceptions of Europe and Germany, jointly undertaken by Loknit-CSIIS with financial support from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, India Office. You can read more about these surveys at ibhindi.com

Indian sentiments about events in Europe

The perception of Europe as a land with a better quality of life has been growing among Indians, particularly among the younger and more educated population. This survey seeks to understand what the average Indian thinks about the continent in relation to their own country.

For a better life: A substantial proportion of Indians believe that Europe offers better employment opportunities than India. Factors contributing to this perception include access to superior healthcare, better public infrastructure, and social welfare benefits.

Table 1: Most Indians think Europe has better job prospects

Table 2: Indians residing in small cities think Europe has better job prospects

Table 3: Pay disparity between India and Europe for similar work

Table 4: Indians prefer to work abroad for various reasons

Table 5: Aspirations to work abroad and various reasons why

Table 6: Indians perceive a more comfortable life in Europe

Table 7: Opinions on Russia's actions in Ukraine

Table 8: Opinion on Russia's actions in Ukraine by education

Table 9: Opinion on Russia's actions in Ukraine by exposure to Western entertainment

Table 10: Opinion on Russia's actions in Ukraine by city type

Where does India stand on the Russia-Ukraine war? The Russia-Ukraine war continues to significantly impact global geopolitics. When asked about the issue, 27% of respondents believed that Russia's actions were necessary, while a larger section, 34%, viewed them as unjustified.

Table 11: Opinions on Russia's actions in Ukraine by exposure to Western entertainment

Table 12: Aspiration/experience of travelling abroad by age and education

Table 13: Countries preferred by Indians for international travel

Table 14: Preference for countries by age group and economic class

Table 15: Preferred countries for travelling abroad and the various reasons why

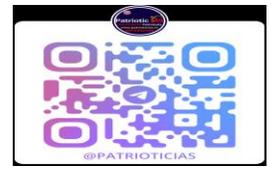
Table 16: Perceived social status of individuals exposed to Europe through study, work, or vacation abroad

On Perceptions About Europe: Job Prospects and the Russia-Ukraine War

यूरोप के बारे में धारणाएँ: रोजगार के अवसर और रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध

This survey explores Indian perceptions about Europe as an attractive destination for both education and employment, reinforcing the perception of long-term career benefits. It also analyses Indian sentiments about the Russia-Ukraine war across different types of cities. These findings suggest that higher education levels strongly correlate with greater awareness.

यह सर्वेक्षण भारतीयों की यूरोप को शिक्षा और रोजगार के लिए एक आकर्षक गंतव्य के रूप में धारणा की पड़ताल करता



यूक्रेन युद्ध के बारे में भारतीय भावनाओं का भी विश्लेषण करता है। ये निष्कर्ष बताते हैं कि उच्च शिक्षा स्तरों का अधिक जागरूकता से गहरा संबंध है।

Employment Opportunities

रोजगार के अवसर

- A substantial proportion of Indians (63%) believe that **Europe offers better employment opportunities** than India.
63% भारतीयों का मानना है कि यूरोप भारत की तुलना में बेहतर रोजगार अवसर प्रदान करता है।
- Nearly three in four (72%) respondents from small cities believe that **Europe provides better job opportunities** compared to three in five in mid-sized and big cities.
छोटे शहरों के 72% उत्तरदाताओं का मानना है कि यूरोप बेहतर नौकरी के अवसर प्रदान करता है, जबकि मध्यम और बड़े शहरों के केवल 60% लोगों का यही विचार है।
- 62% of respondents believe that **workers in Europe earn more than their Indian counterparts** for the same work.
62% उत्तरदाताओं का मानना है कि यूरोप में काम करने वालों को भारत के समान कार्य की तुलना में अधिक वेतन मिलता है।
- 72% respondents with family members in Europe believe that **Europe offers higher wages**.
72% उत्तरदाता जिनके परिवार के सदस्य यूरोप में हैं, मानते हैं कि यूरोप उच्च वेतन प्रदान करता है।
- 15% of Indians surveyed reported plans to **apply for a work visa to Europe**.
15% भारतीयों ने कहा कि वे यूरोप के लिए वर्क वीजा के लिए आवेदन करने की योजना बना रहे हैं।
- The key motivations include **higher wages (38%), career growth (21%), and better infrastructure (7%)**.
प्रमुख प्रेरणाएँ हैं उच्च वेतन (38%), करियर वृद्धि (21%), और बेहतर बुनियादी ढाँचा (7%)।

Lifestyle Perceptions

जीवनशैली की धारणाएँ

- 51% of respondents believe that **life in Europe is more comfortable than in India**.
51% उत्तरदाता मानते हैं कि यूरोप में जीवन भारत की तुलना में अधिक आरामदायक है।
- Younger respondents (60%) and **highly educated individuals (57%)** were more likely to agree.
युवा उत्तरदाता (60%) और उच्च शिक्षित व्यक्ति (57%) इस राय से अधिक सहमत थे।
- **Access to superior healthcare, better public infrastructure, and social welfare benefits** contribute to this perception.
बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवा, सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना, और सामाजिक कल्याण लाभ इस धारणा में योगदान करते हैं।



On the Russia-Ukraine War

रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध पर राय

- 27% of respondents believed that Russia's actions were necessary, while 34% viewed them as unjustified.
27% उत्तरदाता मानते हैं कि रूस की कार्रवाइयाँ आवश्यक थीं, जबकि 34% ने उन्हें अनुचित माना।
- 23% admitted to being unaware of the issue.
23% उत्तरदाताओं ने स्वीकार किया कि वे इस मुद्दे से अवगत नहीं हैं।
- Education Levels Impact Awareness:
शिक्षा स्तर का जागरूकता पर प्रभाव:
 - 42% of respondents with little or no education were unaware of the war.
42% कम या बिना शिक्षा वाले उत्तरदाता युद्ध के बारे में अनजान थे।
 - Among college-educated respondents, 41% criticised Russia's actions.
कॉलेज शिक्षित उत्तरदाताओं में, 41% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों की आलोचना की।
 - Only 16% of college-educated respondents were unaware of the conflict.
केवल 16% कॉलेज शिक्षित उत्तरदाता युद्ध के बारे में अनजान थे।

Impact of Western Media Exposure

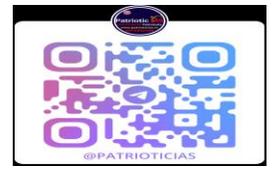
पश्चिमी मीडिया के प्रभाव

- 37% of respondents with no exposure to Western entertainment were unaware of the conflict.
37% उत्तरदाता जिन्होंने पश्चिमी मनोरंजन नहीं देखा, युद्ध से अनजान थे।
- 44% of respondents with moderate exposure to Western media viewed Russia's actions as unjustified.
44% उत्तरदाता जिन्होंने पश्चिमी मीडिया देखा, रूस की कार्रवाइयों को अनुचित मानते हैं।
- High-exposure respondents were divided, with 39% justifying Russia's actions and 37% condemning them.
ज्यादा एक्सपोज़र पाने वाले उत्तरदाता विभाजित थे, 39% रूस की कार्रवाई को उचित मानते हैं, जबकि 37% आलोचना करते हैं।

Views Based on City Size

शहर के आकार के अनुसार राय

- 41% respondents from small cities deemed Russia's actions unjustified, compared to 31% in mid-sized cities and 32% in big cities.
छोटे शहरों के 41% उत्तरदाता रूस की कार्रवाई को अनुचित मानते हैं, जबकि मध्यम आकार के शहरों में 31% और बड़े शहरों में 32% हैं।



- 18% respondents in small cities, 16% in mid-sized cities, and 17% in big cities had no opinion on the war.

छोटे शहरों में 18%, मध्यम शहरों में 16%, और बड़े शहरों में 17% उत्तरदाताओं की कोई राय नहीं थी।

Education and Awareness

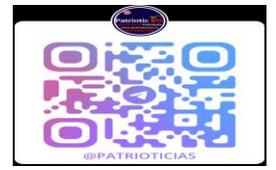
शिक्षा और जागरूकता

- The study found that **education significantly impacts public opinion** about the Russia-Ukraine war.
अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध पर जनमत को आकार देने में शिक्षा का महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव है।**
- Among respondents with **limited or no formal education, 42% were unaware** of the issue, and **only 19% viewed Russia's actions as unjustified.**
जिन उत्तरदाताओं की शिक्षा सीमित या औपचारिक नहीं थी, उनमें से 42% इस मुद्दे से अनजान थे, और केवल 19% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों को अनुचित माना।
- Among respondents with **intermediate/undergraduate education, 27% believed Russia's actions were necessary, 27% were unaware, and 24% considered them unjustified.**
माध्यमिक/स्नातक स्तर की शिक्षा प्राप्त उत्तरदाताओं में से 27% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों को आवश्यक माना, 27% अनजान थे, और 24% ने उन्हें अनुचित बताया।
- Respondents with **college education showed a different trend, with 41% criticizing Russia's actions, and only 16% were unaware of the conflict.**
कॉलेज शिक्षित उत्तरदाताओं में एक अलग प्रवृत्ति देखी गई, जिसमें 41% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों की आलोचना की, और केवल 16% इस संघर्ष से अनजान थे।
- These findings suggest that **higher education strongly correlates with greater awareness, critical thinking, and opinion formation on global affairs.**
इन निष्कर्षों से पता चलता है कि उच्च शिक्षा का वैश्विक मामलों की बेहतर समझ, आलोचनात्मक सोच और राय निर्माण से गहरा संबंध है।

Exposure to Western Media

पश्चिमी मीडिया के प्रभाव

- Exposure to Western media significantly shapes **Indian perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.**
पश्चिमी मीडिया के संपर्क में आना रूस-यूक्रेन संघर्ष पर भारतीय दृष्टिकोण को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।
- Respondents with **no exposure to Western media: 37% were unaware, 27% had no opinion, 16% supported Russia's actions, and 21% considered them unjustified.**
जिन उत्तरदाताओं का पश्चिमी मीडिया से कोई संपर्क नहीं था: 37% अनजान थे, 27% की कोई राय नहीं थी, 16% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों का समर्थन किया, और 21% ने उन्हें अनुचित माना।
- Respondents with **moderate exposure: 44% viewed Russia's actions as unjustified, while 32% supported them.**



मध्यम स्तर के संपर्क वाले उत्तरदाताओं में 44% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों को अनुचित बताया, जबकि 32% ने समर्थन किया।

- Respondents with **high exposure** were **divided: 39% believed Russia's actions were necessary**, and **37% considered them unjustified**.

उच्च संपर्क वाले उत्तरदाता विभाजित थे: 39% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों को आवश्यक माना, और 37% ने उन्हें अनुचित बताया।

- These findings suggest that **Western media influences how Indians perceive global conflicts**.

ये निष्कर्ष दर्शाते हैं कि पश्चिमी मीडिया वैश्विक संघर्षों को लेकर भारतीय दृष्टिकोण को प्रभावित करता है।

Variation Across Cities

शहरों के अनुसार भिन्नता

- Public opinion on the Russia-Ukraine war **varies based on city size**.

रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध पर जनमत शहरों के आकार के अनुसार भिन्न होता है।

- In **small cities**, **41% of respondents deemed Russia's actions unjustified**, while **18% had no opinion**.

छोटे शहरों में, 41% उत्तरदाताओं ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों को अनुचित माना, जबकि 18% की कोई राय नहीं थी।

- In **mid-sized cities**, **31% considered Russia's actions unjustified**, **26% supported them**, and **16% had no opinion**.

मध्यम आकार के शहरों में, 31% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों को अनुचित माना, 26% ने समर्थन किया, और 16% की कोई राय नहीं थी।

- In **big cities**, **31% supported Russia's actions**, **32% opposed them**, and **17% had no opinion**.

बड़े शहरों में, 31% ने रूस की कार्रवाइयों का समर्थन किया, 32% ने विरोध किया, और 17% की कोई राय नहीं थी।

- These findings highlight how **urban environments with diverse populations and information sources create more polarized opinions on international issues**.

ये निष्कर्ष दर्शाते हैं कि विविध जनसंख्या और सूचना स्रोतों वाले शहरी वातावरण अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर अधिक ध्रुवीकृत राय बनाते हैं।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- Education, media exposure, and urban environment significantly shape Indian perceptions of global conflicts.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



शिक्षा, मीडिया संपर्क और शहरी वातावरण वैश्विक संघर्षों पर भारतीय दृष्टिकोण को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से प्रभावित करते हैं।

- Higher education correlates with increased awareness and critical thinking.
उच्च शिक्षा अधिक जागरूकता और आलोचनात्मक सोच से संबंधित है।
- Western media plays a role in shaping opinions on Russia's actions.
पश्चिमी मीडिया रूस की कार्रवाइयों पर राय बनाने में भूमिका निभाता है।
- Different city sizes show variations in how people perceive the war.
विभिन्न शहरों में रहने वाले लोग युद्ध को अलग-अलग तरीके से देखते हैं।
- Socio-economic and cultural factors contribute to the diversity of perspectives in Indian society.
सामाजिक-आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक कारक भारतीय समाज में विभिन्न दृष्टिकोणों में योगदान देते हैं।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

- 1. Pakistan Train Siege Ends; 340 Freed, 27 Soldiers Dead**
पाकिस्तान ट्रेन घेराबंदी खत्म; 340 बंधक मुक्त, 27 सैनिक मारे गए
- 2. ₹4.21-Lakh-Crore Madhya Pradesh Budget Focuses on Industrial Growth**
₹4.21 लाख करोड़ का मध्य प्रदेश बजट औद्योगिक विकास पर केंद्रित
- 3. Opposition wins Greenland vote, as nationalists surge**
ग्रीनलैंड चुनाव में विपक्ष की जीत, राष्ट्रवादियों का प्रभाव बढ़ा



Pakistan train siege ends; 340 freed, 27 soldiers dead

PCS

Agence France-Presse
SIBI



Ambulances wait at a railway station in the Balochistan province, Pakistan, to ferry rescued passengers on Wednesday. REUTERS

eration," an Army official said on condition of anonymity. The 27 slain soldiers had been travelling on the train as passengers, the official added. "A large number of (paramilitary) personnel and their families were travelling home for their vacations," said another official.

One on-duty soldier was killed in the operation.

More than 340 train passengers taken hostage by a militant group in Pakistan were freed on Wednesday by security forces after a 30-hour siege, an Army official said, confirming that 27 off-duty soldiers were shot dead by militants.

Pakistan security forces launched a rescue mission on Tuesday afternoon after the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), the separatist group, bombed a rail track in mountainous southwest Balochistan and stormed the Jaffar Express with around 450 passengers on board. In a statement after the attack, the BLA demanded release of its imprisoned members.

30 terrorists killed

A total of "346 hostages were freed and over 30 terrorists killed during the op-

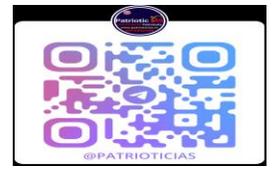
Pakistan Train Siege Ends; 340 Freed, 27 Soldiers Dead

पाकिस्तान ट्रेन घेराबंदी खत्म; 340 बंधक मुक्त, 27 सैनिक मारे गए

Train Passengers Rescued After 30-Hour Siege 30 घंटे की घेराबंदी के बाद ट्रेन यात्रियों को बचाया गया

- More than 340 passengers taken hostage by a militant group in Pakistan were freed on Wednesday after a 30-hour siege by security forces.

पाकिस्तान में एक उग्रवादी समूह द्वारा बंधक बनाए गए 340 से अधिक यात्रियों को बुधवार को 30 घंटे की घेराबंदी के बाद सुरक्षा बल



₹4.21-lakh-crore Madhya Pradesh budget focuses on industrial growth

PCS

1.27 cr. beneficiaries of Ladli Behna scheme to be linked with Central schemes; outlay 15% higher than previous year; no new taxes; aim to increase per capita annual income to ₹22.35 lakh: Devda

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Jagdish Devda on Wednesday presented the budget for 2025-26 in the Assembly, with a total outlay of ₹4,21,032 crore and a focus on sectors such as industry and agriculture.

This is the first budget of the State that has crossed the ₹4-lakh-crore mark. It is about 15% higher than the previous budget of ₹3.65 lakh crore. The budget also estimates a revenue surplus of ₹618 crore.

Mr. Devda said no provisions for new taxes or any increase in existing taxes have been made this year.

“Our target is to increase the per capita annual income from ₹1.42 lakh to ₹22.35 lakh,” he said.

The Minister said capital expenditure is expected to increase by 31% compared with the last year. The fiscal deficit is estimated to be

Forward march

The Madhya Pradesh budget for 2025-26 focuses on infrastructure development, religious tourism, industrial growth

■ 39 new industrial areas to be developed on 14,500 acres; ₹3,250 crore for giving incentives to industries

■ ₹18,715 crore for urban development, ₹19,050 crore for rural development; ₹850 crore for metro rail projects

■ ₹2,000 crore for the preparations of Simhastha Kumbh Mela, scheduled in Ujjain in 2028

■ One ‘Madhya Pradesh Institute of Technology’ in each division on the lines of the IITs in the next five years

■ ₹500 crore for establishment of Vedanta Peeth, ₹10 crore for Shrikrishna Pathy Yojana

■ ₹1,610 crore for tourism, culture and religious affairs; ₹100 crore for Gita Bhawan study centres in all urban civic bodies

■ ₹50 crore for pilgrimages for senior citizens



Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Devda arriving at the Assembly to present the budget on Wednesday. ANI

₹78,902 crore.

Mr. Devda said 39 new industrial areas will be developed on 14,500 acres across the State. He announced ₹58,257 crore for agriculture, ₹23,533 crore for health, ₹19,000 crore for energy, ₹18,715 crore for

urban development, and ₹19,050 crore for rural development. The amount for urban development also includes ₹2,000 crore for the preparations of Simhastha Kumbh Mela, scheduled in Ujjain in 2028.

The Finance Minister al-

so allocated ₹18,669 crore for the government’s flagship Ladli Behna scheme. He said the 1.27 crore beneficiaries of the scheme, under which eligible women receive monthly aid of ₹1,250, will be linked with Central schemes like Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana. However, no increase was announced in the monthly payout as promised by the BJP in its manifesto ahead of 2023 Assembly election.

‘Focus on GYAN’

Mr. Devda said the budget is focused on GYAN (Garib, Yuva, Annadata and Nari) with the aim of doubling the size of the budget in the next five years.

Congress MLAs staged a protest inside the Assembly, wearing shackles and carrying black bundles on their heads to symbolise the “burden on the public” due to the government’s debt. They later staged a walkout from the House.

₹4.21-Lakh-Crore Madhya Pradesh Budget Focuses on Industrial Growth

₹4.21 लाख करोड़ का

मध्य प्रदेश बजट

औद्योगिक विकास पर केंद्रित

Biggest Budget in State’s History

राज्य के इतिहास का सबसे बड़ा बजट

• Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Jagdish Devda presented the ₹4,21,032 crore budget for 2025-26 in the Assembly.

मध्य प्रदेश के उपमुख्यमंत्री और वित्त मंत्री जगदीश देवड़ा ने 2025-26 के लिए ₹4,21,032 करोड़ का बजट विधानसभा में पेश किया।

- This is the first budget to cross ₹4 lakh crore, marking a 15% increase from last year’s ₹3.65 lakh crore budget.

यह ₹4 लाख करोड़ को पार करने वाला पहला बजट है, जो पिछले साल के ₹3.65 लाख करोड़ के बजट से 15% अधिक है।

- The budget estimates a revenue surplus of ₹618 crore, with no new taxes or increase in existing taxes.

इस बजट में ₹618 करोड़ का राजस्व अधिशेष अनुमानित है और कोई नया कर नहीं लगाया गया, न ही किसी कर में वृद्धि की गई।

- The government aims to increase per capita annual income from ₹1.42 lakh to ₹22.35 lakh.

सरकार का लक्ष्य प्रति व्यक्ति वार्षिक आय को ₹1.42 लाख से बढ़ाकर ₹22.35 लाख करना है।



Major Allocations in the Budget

बजट में प्रमुख आवंटन

- ₹58,257 crore for agriculture.
कृषि क्षेत्र के लिए ₹58,257 करोड़।
- ₹23,533 crore for healthcare.
स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र के लिए ₹23,533 करोड़।
- ₹19,000 crore for energy sector.
ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए ₹19,000 करोड़।
- ₹18,715 crore for urban development, including ₹2,000 crore for the Simhastha Kumbh Mela in Ujjain (2028).
शहरी विकास के लिए ₹18,715 करोड़, जिसमें 2028 में उज्जैन में होने वाले सिंहस्थ कुंभ मेले के लिए ₹2,000 करोड़ शामिल।
- ₹19,050 crore for rural development.
ग्रामीण विकास के लिए ₹19,050 करोड़।
- ₹18,669 crore allocated for the government's Ladli Behna Scheme, benefiting 1.27 crore women.
लाड़ली बहना योजना के लिए ₹18,669 करोड़ का आवंटन, जिससे 1.27 करोड़ महिलाएं लाभान्वित होंगी।

Expansion of Industrial Areas

औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों का विस्तार

- 39 new industrial areas will be developed over 14,500 acres across the state.
राज्य में 14,500 एकड़ में 39 नए औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकसित किए जाएंगे।
- Capital expenditure will increase by 31%, and the fiscal deficit is estimated at ₹78,902 crore.
पूंजीगत व्यय में 31% की वृद्धि होगी, और राजकोषीय घाटा ₹78,902 करोड़ अनुमानित है।

Ladli Behna Scheme and Central Linkages

लाड़ली बहना योजना और केंद्र योजनाओं से जोड़ने की पहल

- No increase in the ₹1,250 monthly aid, despite BJP's promise before the 2023 Assembly elections.
2023 विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले भाजपा के वादे के बावजूद, ₹1,250 मासिक सहायता में कोई वृद्धि नहीं की गई।
- Beneficiaries will be linked with Central schemes like:
 - Atal Pension Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana



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- **PM Suraksha Bima Yojana**
लाभार्थियों को अटल पेंशन योजना, प्रधानमंत्री जीवन ज्योति बीमा योजना और पीएम सुरक्षा बीमा योजना से जोड़ा जाएगा।

Focus on 'GYAN' Strategy

'GYAN' रणनीति पर जोर

- The budget focuses on **GYAN (Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Nari)**, aiming to **double the budget size in five years**.
बजट GYAN (गरीब, युवा, अन्नदाता, नारी) रणनीति पर केंद्रित है, जिसका उद्देश्य अगले पांच वर्षों में बजट का आकार दोगुना करना है।

Opposition's Protest and Walkout

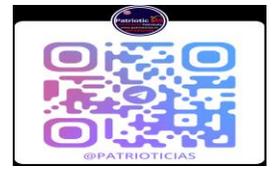
विपक्ष का विरोध और वाकआउट

- **Congress MLAs protested inside the Assembly**, wearing **shackles and carrying black bundles** to symbolize the **debt burden on the public**.
कांग्रेस विधायकों ने विधानसभा में विरोध प्रदर्शन किया, उन्होंने बेड़ियां पहनकर और काले गट्ठर उठाकर जनता पर बढ़ते कर्ज को दर्शाया।
- Later, **Congress MLAs walked out of the House**.
बाद में, कांग्रेस विधायकों ने सदन से वाकआउट किया।

Conclusion: A Budget Aimed at Growth, but Criticized by Opposition

निष्कर्ष: विकास केंद्रित बजट, लेकिन विपक्ष की आलोचना जारी

- The **₹4.21 lakh crore budget** aims at **economic and industrial growth**, with major investments in **agriculture, infrastructure, and social schemes**.
₹4.21 लाख करोड़ का बजट आर्थिक और औद्योगिक विकास पर केंद्रित है, जिसमें कृषि, बुनियादी ढांचे और सामाजिक योजनाओं में बड़े निवेश किए गए हैं।
- **No new taxes and revenue surplus** signal **financial stability**, but **opposition questions rising debt and lack of direct relief**.
कोई नया कर नहीं लगाया गया और राजस्व अधिशेष दिखाता है कि वित्तीय स्थिरता बनी हुई है, लेकिन विपक्ष बढ़ते कर्ज और जनता को सीधी राहत न देने पर सवाल उठा रहा है।



Opposition wins Greenland vote, as nationalists surge

PCS

Agence France-Presse
NUUK

The centre-right Opposition has won a surprise victory in legislative elections in Greenland, the Danish territory coveted by U.S. President Donald Trump, as support also surged for the nationalist Naleraq party seeking independence as soon as possible.

The Democratic party – which describes itself as “social liberal” – more than tripled its score from the 2021 election to win

29.9% of votes, official results showed. The nationalist Naleraq party, the most ardent pro-independence party, more than doubled its showing to 24.5%. As none of the parties won a majority of the 31 seats in Parliament, negotiations to form a coalition will be held in the coming days.

Never before has an election in Greenland garnered as much global interest, following Mr. Trump’s recently stated ambitions to take control of the vast resource-rich territory.

Opposition wins Greenland vote, as nationalists surge

ग्रीनलैंड चुनाव में विपक्ष की जीत, राष्ट्रवादियों का प्रभाव बढ़ा

The centre-right Opposition secured a surprise victory in Greenland's legislative elections, a Danish territory coveted by U.S. President Donald Trump.

ग्रीनलैंड के विधायी चुनावों में केंद्र-दक्षिणपंथी विपक्ष ने अप्रत्याशित जीत दर्ज की, यह डेनमार्क का वह क्षेत्र है जिसे अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप चाहते थे।

- The nationalist Naleraq party, which seeks independence as soon as possible, saw a surge in support.

राष्ट्रवादी नालेराक पार्टी, जो जल्द से जल्द स्वतंत्रता चाहती है, को बढ़ती समर्थन लहर मिली।

Election results and party performance

चुनाव परिणाम और दलों का प्रदर्शन

- The Democratic party, which describes itself as “social liberal”, more than tripled its vote share from the 2021 election, securing 29.9% of votes.

डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी, जो खुद को “सामाजिक उदारवादी” कहती है, ने 2021 के चुनाव की तुलना में अपने वोट प्रतिशत को तीन गुना बढ़ाकर 29.9% कर लिया।

- The nationalist Naleraq party, the strongest pro-independence party, more than doubled its vote share, reaching 24.5%.

राष्ट्रवादी नालेराक पार्टी, जो सबसे कट्टर स्वतंत्रता समर्थक पार्टी है, ने अपना वोट प्रतिशत दोगुने से अधिक बढ़ाकर 24.5% कर लिया।

- No party won a majority in the 31-seat Parliament, leading to coalition negotiations in the coming days.

31 सीटों वाली संसद में किसी भी दल को बहुमत नहीं मिला, जिसके कारण आने वाले दिनों में गठबंधन वार्ताएँ होंगी।



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Global interest in the Greenland elections

ग्रीनलैंड चुनावों में वैश्विक रुचि

- Greenland's elections received unprecedented global attention, especially after Donald Trump expressed interest in acquiring the resource-rich territory.
ग्रीनलैंड के चुनावों को अभूतपूर्व वैश्विक ध्यान मिला, विशेष रूप से जब डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने इस संसाधन-संपन्न क्षेत्र को हासिल करने की इच्छा जताई।

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