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# PATRIOTIC IAS

**THE HINDU NEWSPAPER**  
**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**10 APRIL 2025**

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10\_04\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

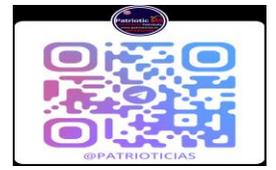
TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)



GS Paper I: Society

Diverse history: Badagas of Nilgiris celebrating the "Jadayaswamy" festival at the Jackkanarai village near Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu on March 10. sriivmsucomr.n

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## Epic retold

GS Paper I: A&C



An enactment of *Velakali*, depicting the Pandava-Kaurava war from the Mahabharata, performed in front of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala as part of the Panguni festival on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

## TOPICS COVERED GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, and International Relations)

- 1. Dera Sacha Sauda chief released on 21-day furlough**  
डेरा सच्चा सौदा प्रमुख को 21 दिनों की फरलो पर रिहा किया गया
- 2. India, U.K. optimistic about trade deal, but deny Trump tariffs causing added urgency**  
भारत और यू.के. व्यापार समझौते को लेकर आशावादी, लेकिन ट्रंप के टैरिफ को अतिरिक्त दबाव का कारण मानने से इनकार
- 3. Legal milestone**  
कानूनी मील का पत्थर
- 4. Understanding India's China conundrum**  
भारत की चीन से जुड़ी उलझन को समझना



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5. The pandemic — looking back, looking forward  
महामारी — पीछे देखना, आगे बढ़ना
6. Home and abroad  
घर और विदेश
7. The Rohingya are on the brink of starvation  
रोहिंग्या भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं
8. Democracy and federalism in the delimitation debate  
सीमांकन बहस में लोकतंत्र और संघवाद
9. India better off than others in tariff row: RBI Governor  
आरबीआई गवर्नर के अनुसार टैरिफ विवाद में भारत अन्य देशों से बेहतर स्थिति में
10. The IMF reaches a deal with Argentina on a \$20 billion bailout  
आईएमएफ ने अर्जेंटीना के साथ \$20 बिलियन बेलआउट पर समझौता किया

PATRIOTIC IAS



## Dera Sacha Sauda chief released on 21-day furlough

डेरा सच्चा सौदा प्रमुख को 21 दिनों की फरलो पर रिहा किया गया

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, a rape and murder convict, was on Wednesday released from Rohtak's Sunaria jail in Haryana on 21-day furlough — his 13th temporary release from the jail since October 2020.

डेरा सच्चा सौदा प्रमुख गुरमीत राम रहीम सिंह, जो बलात्कार और हत्या के दोषी हैं, को बुधवार को हरियाणा की रोहतक की सुनारिया जेल से 21 दिनों की फरलो पर रिहा किया गया — यह अक्टूबर 2020 से उनकी 13वीं अस्थायी रिहाई है।

### GS Paper II: Judicial System

## Dera Sacha Sauda chief released on 21-day furlough

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, a rape and murder convict, was on Wednesday released from Rohtak's Sunaria jail in Haryana on 21-day furlough — his 13th temporary release from the jail since October 2020. Singh's release coincides with the foundation month of April at the Dera Sacha Sauda, described on its website as a socio-spiritual organisation. He was earlier released on a month-long parole on January 28, ahead of the high-stakes Delhi Assembly poll. After his release, Singh posted a video message on his Instagram account, saying he was present at the service of his followers, but appealed to them not to throng the ashram.

- Singh's release coincides with the foundation month of April at the Dera Sacha Sauda, described on its website as a socio-spiritual organisation.

सिंह की रिहाई डेरा सच्चा सौदा के अप्रैल माह के स्थापना माह के साथ मेल खाती है, जिसे उसकी वेबसाइट पर एक सामाजिक-आध्यात्मिक संगठन के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है।

- He was earlier released on a month-long parole on January 28, ahead of the high-stakes Delhi Assembly poll.

उन्हें इससे पहले 28 जनवरी को एक महीने की पैरोल पर रिहा किया गया था, जो कि दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले हुआ था।



## In remembrance



**GS Paper II: India-Europe**

**Diplomatic gesture:** President Droupadi Murmu, who is on a state visit to Slovakia, pays her respects at the Gate of Freedom Memorial in Bratislava on Wednesday. The two sides reviewed various aspects of bilateral relations and issues of shared global and regional interests. PTI

• After his release, Singh posted a **video message on his Instagram account**, saying he was present at the **service of his followers**, but appealed to them **not to throng the ashram**.

रिहाई के बाद सिंह ने अपने इंस्टाग्राम अकाउंट पर एक वीडियो संदेश पोस्ट किया, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि वह अपने अनुयायियों की सेवा के लिए मौजूद हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने उनसे आश्रम में भीड़ न लगाने की अपील की।



## India, U.K. optimistic about trade deal, but deny Trump tariffs causing added urgency

भारत और यू.के. व्यापार समझौते को लेकर आशावादी, लेकिन ट्रंप के टैरिफ को अतिरिक्त दबाव का कारण मानने से इनकार

### India, U.K. optimistic about trade deal, but deny Trump tariffs causing added urgency

GS Paper II: India-UK

Sriram Lakshman  
LONDON

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her British counterpart, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, appeared optimistic on Wednesday that the two countries could conclude a trade and investment deal soon. They were both however careful to de-link the discussions – which have been under way since January 2022 – to the April 2 worldwide tariff announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump.

“The U.K.-India partnership dialogue is not really in response to the global uncertainties...we’ve been participating in this with the old bonds coming to our mind,” Ms. Sitharaman told reporters at a joint briefing with Ms. Reeves, held at the London Stock Exchange at the conclusion of the 13th U.K.-India Economic and Financial Dialogue.



Bilateral exchange: Rachel Reeves and Nirmala Sitharaman shake hands following the India-U.K. financial dialogue on Wednesday, AP

Ms. Reeves also agreed that the dialogue was not a response to tariffs by third countries. Nevertheless, some finance and business leaders believe the chaos in the markets and global economy is a reason to conclude a deal.

“Global trade is entering a new era, where strategic alliances and trade agreements are more crucial than ever,” the Lord Mayor of London, Alastair King, said in a statement. The Lord Mayor is the chief ad-

ministrator of the City of London – which is the financial district of the city. Ms. Sitharaman participated in a business roundtable with Mr. King and U.K. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds earlier on Wednesday.

“In the face of global developments, it is imperative that we think creatively and act in partnership,” said the chief of Standard Chartered, Bill Winters, who co-chairs the India-U.K. Financial Partnership

with Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO Uday Kotak.

“Time to conclude talks” “We’ve had quite a lot of discussions, which was well worth it, but now it’s the time to conclude [the negotiations],” Ms. Sitharaman said, noting there was a “great sense of positivity” about finalising an agreement.

“[We] very much hope to be able to secure a deal... we’re not waiting for a free trade agreement to boost trade and investment between our countries,” Ms. Reeves said, pointing to some of the day’s announcements.

The two sides said they looked forward to signing the India-U.K. Defence Industrial Roadmap, in a joint statement issued on Wednesday evening. The U.K. welcomed the recent announcements by the government on rationalisation in the taxation of foreign corporates and the enhanced limit of 100%

FDI in the insurance sector. The sides agreed to explore the role that London could play in supporting the internationalisation of India’s currency. The joint statement also refers to a number of other areas: from the formalisation of cooperation between the two countries’ financial conduct authorities to debt-restructuring for low and middle-income countries and climate finance.

On a bilateral investment treaty that the two sides are negotiating in parallel to the trade deal, Ms. Sitharaman said the two sides were working out “difficulties that we’ve had on just a few matters” but expressed optimism a deal would be concluded.

On the Trump tariffs, Ms. Reeves said “nothing is off the table”, in terms of a possible response from the U.K., which has not retaliated yet. She argued, however, that a knee-jerk reaction could make the situation worse.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her British counterpart, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, appeared optimistic on Wednesday that the two countries could conclude a trade and investment deal soon.

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण और उनकी ब्रिटिश समकक्ष, चांसलर ऑफ द एक्सचेजर रैचेल रीव्स ने बुधवार को इस बात को लेकर

आशावाद जताया कि दोनों देश जल्द ही व्यापार और निवेश समझौता कर सकते हैं।

• They were both however careful to **de-link the discussions** — which have been under way since **January 2022** — from the **April 2 worldwide tariff announcement** by **U.S. President Donald Trump**.

हालांकि, दोनों ने इस बात का विशेष ध्यान रखा कि जनवरी 2022 से चल रही वार्ताओं को 2 अप्रैल को अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा घोषित वैश्विक टैरिफ से जोड़ कर नहीं देखा जाए।

• “The **U.K.-India partnership dialogue** is not really in response to the **global uncertainties**...we’ve been participating in this with the **old bonds** coming to our mind,” Ms. Sitharaman told reporters.

श्रीमती सीतारमण ने संवाददाताओं से कहा, “भारत-यू.के. साझेदारी संवाद वास्तव में वैश्विक अनिश्चितताओं की प्रतिक्रिया नहीं है... हम इसमें पुराने संबंधों की भावना के साथ भाग ले रहे हैं।”

• The briefing with Ms. Reeves was held at the **London Stock Exchange** at the conclusion of the **13th U.K.-India Economic and Financial Dialogue**.



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13वें भारत-यू.के. आर्थिक और वित्तीय संवाद के समापन पर यह संयुक्त प्रेस वार्ता लंदन स्टॉक एक्सचेंज में आयोजित की गई।

• Ms. Reeves also agreed that the dialogue was **not a response to tariffs by third countries**. श्रीमती रीव्स ने भी इस बात से सहमति जताई कि यह संवाद अन्य देशों द्वारा लगाए गए टैरिफ के जवाब में नहीं है।

• Nevertheless, some **finance and business leaders** believe the **chaos in the markets and global economy** is a reason to **conclude a deal**.

हालांकि, कुछ वित्त और व्यापार क्षेत्र के नेताओं का मानना है कि बाजारों और वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था में मची उथल-पुथल इस समझौते को पूरा करने का कारण है।

• “**Global trade** is entering a **new era**, where **strategic alliances and trade agreements** are more crucial than ever,” said **Lord Mayor of London, Alastair King**.

लॉर्ड मेयर ऑफ लंदन एलेस्टेयर किंग ने कहा, “वैश्विक व्यापार एक नई युग में प्रवेश कर रहा है, जहां रणनीतिक साझेदारियां और व्यापार समझौते पहले से कहीं अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो गए हैं।”

• The **Lord Mayor** is the **chief administrator of the City of London**, which is the **financial district** of the city.

लॉर्ड मेयर सिटी ऑफ लंदन के प्रमुख प्रशासक होते हैं, जो कि शहर का वित्तीय क्षेत्र है।

• Ms. Sitharaman participated in a **business roundtable** with **Mr. King** and **U.K. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds** earlier on Wednesday.

श्रीमती सीतारमण ने बुधवार को पहले श्री किंग और यू.के. व्यापार और उद्योग सचिव जोनाथन रेनॉल्ड्स के साथ एक व्यापार गोलमेज बैठक में भाग लिया।

• “In the face of **global developments**, it is imperative that we think **creatively** and act in **partnership**,” said **Bill Winters**, chief of **Standard Chartered**, who co-chairs the **India-U.K. Financial Partnership**.

स्टैंडर्ड चार्टर्ड बैंक के प्रमुख बिल विंटर्स, जो कि इंडिया-यू.के. फाइनेंशियल पार्टनरशिप के सह-अध्यक्ष हैं, ने कहा, “वैश्विक घटनाक्रमों के मद्देनजर, यह आवश्यक है कि हम रचनात्मक रूप से सोचें और साझेदारी में कार्य करें।”

• “[We] very much hope to be able to **secure a deal**... we’re **not waiting for a free trade agreement** to boost trade and investment,” said Ms. Reeves.

श्रीमती रीव्स ने कहा, “[हम] पूरी उम्मीद करते हैं कि हम एक समझौता सुरक्षित करने में सक्षम होंगे... हम मुक्त व्यापार समझौते का इंतजार नहीं कर रहे हैं व्यापार और निवेश बढ़ाने के लिए।”

• Ms. Sitharaman said, “We’ve had quite a lot of **discussions**, which was **well worth it**, but now it’s the time to **conclude** the negotiations.”

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श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा, “हमने कई विचार-विमर्श किए हैं, जो बहुत उपयोगी रहे, लेकिन अब समय है कि हम वार्ताओं को पूरा करें।”

• The two sides said they looked forward to signing the **India-U.K. Defence Industrial Roadmap**, in a **joint statement** issued on **Wednesday evening**.

बुधवार शाम को जारी एक संयुक्त बयान में दोनों पक्षों ने भारत-यू.के. रक्षा औद्योगिक रोडमैप पर हस्ताक्षर करने की उम्मीद जताई।

• The U.K. welcomed the **recent announcements** by the Indian government on **taxation rationalisation for foreign corporates** and **100% FDI limit in the insurance sector**.

यू.के. ने भारत सरकार द्वारा विदेशी कंपनियों के लिए कर सरलीकरण और बीमा क्षेत्र में 100% प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) की हालिया घोषणाओं का स्वागत किया।

• The two sides agreed to explore the role that **London** could play in supporting the **internationalisation of India's currency**.

दोनों पक्षों ने इस पर सहमति जताई कि लंदन भारत की मुद्रा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण में कैसे भूमिका निभा सकता है, इसे तलाशा जाएगा।

• The **joint statement** also refers to areas like **cooperation between financial conduct authorities**, **debt-restructuring for low and middle-income countries**, and **climate finance**.

संयुक्त बयान में वित्तीय आचरण प्राधिकरणों के बीच सहयोग, कम और मध्यम आय वाले देशों के लिए ऋण पुनर्गठन, और जलवायु वित्त जैसे क्षेत्रों का भी उल्लेख किया गया।

• On a **bilateral investment treaty** being negotiated in parallel to the trade deal, Ms. Sitharaman said both sides were working out **difficulties on a few matters** but were **optimistic**.

व्यापार समझौते के समानांतर चल रही द्विपक्षीय निवेश संधि पर श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा कि दोनों पक्ष कुछ मामलों पर जटिलताओं को सुलझाने में लगे हैं लेकिन वे आशावादी हैं।

• On the **Trump tariffs**, Ms. Reeves said “**nothing is off the table**”, in terms of a **possible response** from the U.K., which has **not retaliated yet**.

ट्रंप टैरिफ के संबंध में श्रीमती रीव्स ने कहा कि “कुछ भी बाहर नहीं है”, यू.के. की संभावित प्रतिक्रिया के संदर्भ में, जिसने अभी तक कोई प्रतिशोध नहीं लिया है।

• She argued, however, that a **knee-jerk reaction** could **make the situation worse**.

हालांकि, उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि **भावनात्मक प्रतिक्रिया** स्थिति को **और खराब कर सकती है**।



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GS Paper II: Federalism

## Legal milestone

Cooperative federalism must guide conduct of Governors

The Supreme Court's judgment on the conduct of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi is set to have a far-reaching impact on Centre-State relations, underscoring as it does India's federal principles in what are undoubtedly fraught times. The verdict enhances the administrative autonomy of States, and regulates the functioning of constitutional offices, with implications for the entire country. In the case which concerns Mr. Ravi's handling of 10 Bills passed by the State Assembly, the Court has effectively changed how Governors carry out their constitutional responsibilities. The intervention comes at a time when tensions between Governors and governments in States ruled by parties other than the BJP have peaked – especially over issues such as the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) to State-run universities, where Governors serve as Chancellors. It is no coincidence that the Bills at the heart of the case sought to replace the Governor with the State government as the authority for appointing V-Cs. Mr. Ravi had forwarded these Bills to President Droupadi Murmu after they were re-adopted by the State Assembly. The Court held that the Bills were deemed to have received assent. It described the Governor's action of referring the Bills to the President as "not bona fide", and his conduct as "arbitrary, non est, and erroneous in law" – language that resembled a performance appraisal of the gubernatorial office. In normal circumstances, such a severe reprimand would have resulted in the resignation of the person whose conduct was under scrutiny: Mr. Ravi. But these are not normal circumstances, and Mr. Ravi was certainly playing the politically partisan role assigned to him by the government at the Centre, led by the BJP, which is inimically disposed to the DMK that is in power in Tamil Nadu. Hindrance was the strategy.

The significance of the judgment goes beyond the censure of a particular Governor. It lays down definite timelines for Governors to act on Bills. It ensures that Governors can no longer indefinitely delay legislation under the pretext of scrutiny or act whimsically or with impunity. The Court has reaffirmed a constitutional principle that has often been undermined: that Raj Bhavans must function with transparency, and accountability. With the legislation now in force, the Tamil Nadu government has the authority to appoint V-Cs and must act swiftly to fill these vacancies in 12 universities, and are made based on merit, integrity, and competence, given past allegations of corruption. This judgment is not merely a legal milestone; it is a call for constitutional morality and cooperative federalism, and restoration of dignity to the office of the Governor, who, as the Court pointed out, is expected to act as friend, philosopher, and guide to the State Cabinet, and not as a blunt instrument of the Centre.

यह हस्तक्षेप ऐसे समय आया है जब गैर-भाजपा शासित राज्यों में राज्यपालों और सरकारों के बीच तनाव चरम पर है — खासकर राज्य-प्रवर्तित विश्वविद्यालयों में कुलपतियों (V-Cs) की नियुक्ति को लेकर, जहाँ राज्यपाल कुलाधिपति होते हैं।

• It is no coincidence that the Bills at the heart of the case sought to replace the Governor with the State government as the authority for appointing V-Cs.

## Legal milestone

### कानूनी मील का पत्थर

## Cooperative federalism must guide conduct of Governors

राज्यपालों के आचरण का मार्गदर्शन सहकारी संघवाद से होना चाहिए

• The Supreme Court's judgment on the conduct of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi is set to have a far-reaching impact on Centre-State relations, underscoring as it does India's federal principles in what are undoubtedly fraught times.

तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि के आचरण पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों पर गंभीर प्रभाव डालने वाला है, जो भारत के संघीय सिद्धांतों को ऐसे संवेदनशील समय में रेखांकित करता है।

• The verdict enhances the administrative autonomy of States, and regulates the functioning of constitutional offices, with implications for the entire country.

यह निर्णय राज्यों की प्रशासनिक स्वायत्तता को बढ़ाता है और संवैधानिक कार्यालयों के कामकाज को नियमित करता है, जिससे पूरा देश प्रभावित होगा।

• In the case which concerns Mr. Ravi's handling of 10 Bills passed by the State Assembly, the Court has effectively changed how Governors carry out their constitutional responsibilities.

इस मामले में जो राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि द्वारा राज्य विधानसभा से पारित 10 विधेयकों के निपटान से जुड़ा है, कोर्ट ने यह स्पष्ट रूप से बदल दिया है कि राज्यपाल अपनी संवैधानिक जिम्मेदारियों को कैसे निभाते हैं।

• The intervention comes at a time when tensions between Governors and governments in non-BJP ruled States have peaked — especially over issues such as the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) to State-run universities, where Governors serve as Chancellors.

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यह कोई संयोग नहीं है कि इस मामले के केंद्र में जो विधेयक हैं, वे कुलपति नियुक्ति के लिए राज्यपाल के स्थान पर राज्य सरकार को अधिकृत बनाना चाहते थे।

• Mr. Ravi had forwarded these Bills to **President Droupadi Murmu** after they were re-adopted by the **State Assembly**.

आर.एन. रवि ने इन विधेयकों को राज्य विधानसभा द्वारा दोबारा पारित किए जाने के बाद राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू को भेज दिया था।

• The Court held that the **Bills were deemed to have received assent**.

कोर्ट ने कहा कि इन विधेयकों को सहमति प्राप्त मानी जाएगी।

• It described the Governor's action of referring the Bills to the **President** as "**not bona fide**", and his conduct as "**arbitrary, non est, and erroneous in law**".

कोर्ट ने इन विधेयकों को राष्ट्रपति को भेजने की राज्यपाल की कार्रवाई को "ईमानदार नहीं" बताया और उनके आचरण को "मनमाना, अवैध, और कानून की दृष्टि से त्रुटिपूर्ण" कहा।

• In normal circumstances, such a **severe reprimand** would have resulted in the **resignation** of the person whose conduct was under scrutiny: **Mr. Ravi**.

सामान्य परिस्थितियों में, ऐसी कड़ी फटकार उस व्यक्ति के इस्तीफे का कारण बनती जिसकी जांच हो रही थी: अर्थात् आर.एन. रवि।

• But these are not normal circumstances, and Mr. Ravi was certainly playing the **politically partisan role** assigned to him by the **Centre**, led by the **BJP**, which is **inimically disposed** to the **DMK** that is in power in **Tamil Nadu**.

लेकिन ये सामान्य परिस्थितियाँ नहीं हैं, और आर.एन. रवि निश्चित रूप से केंद्र, विशेष रूप से भाजपा के द्वारा सौंपा गया राजनीतिक पक्षपाती रोल निभा रहे थे, जो तमिलनाडु की सत्तारूढ़ DMK के प्रति विरोधी रवैया रखती है।

• **Hindrance** was the strategy.

यह पूरी रणनीति विरोध और रुकावट की थी।

• The significance of the judgment goes beyond the **censure** of a particular Governor.

इस फैसले का महत्व किसी एक राज्यपाल की फटकार से कहीं अधिक है।

• It lays down **definite timelines** for Governors to act on **Bills**.

यह राज्यपालों के लिए विधेयकों पर कार्रवाई करने की निर्धारित समयसीमा तय करता है।

• It ensures that Governors can no longer **indefinitely delay legislation** under the pretext of scrutiny or act **whimsically** or with **impunity**.

यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि राज्यपाल अब जांच के बहाने विधेयकों में अनिश्चितकालीन देरी नहीं कर सकते या मनमाने या दंडमुक्त होकर कार्य नहीं कर सकते।

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• The Court has reaffirmed a **constitutional principle** that has often been undermined: that **Raj Bhavans** must function with **transparency**, and **accountability**.

कोर्ट ने एक **संवैधानिक सिद्धांत** की फिर से पुष्टि की है, जिसे अक्सर कमजोर किया गया है: कि **राजभवन** को **पारदर्शिता** और **उत्तरदायित्व** के साथ कार्य करना चाहिए।

• With the **legislation** now in force, the **Tamil Nadu government** has the authority to appoint **V-Cs** and must act swiftly to fill these vacancies in **12 universities**, and are made based on **merit**, **integrity**, and **competence**, given past allegations of **corruption**.

अब जबकि यह **कानून** लागू हो चुका है, **तमिलनाडु सरकार** को **12 विश्वविद्यालयों** में **कुलपतियों** की नियुक्ति का अधिकार मिल गया है, और यह नियुक्तियाँ **योग्यता**, **ईमानदारी**, और **क्षमता** के आधार पर जल्द की जानी चाहिए, क्योंकि पहले **भ्रष्टाचार** के आरोप लगे थे।

• This judgment is not merely a **legal milestone**; it is a **call for constitutional morality** and **cooperative federalism**, and **restoration of dignity** to the office of the **Governor**, who, as the Court pointed out, is expected to act as **friend**, **philosopher**, and **guide** to the State Cabinet, and not as a **blunt instrument** of the Centre.

यह निर्णय केवल एक **कानूनी मील का पत्थर** नहीं है; यह एक **संवैधानिक नैतिकता** और **सहकारी संघवाद** की पुकार है, और **राज्यपाल** के पद की गरिमा की बहाली भी है, जो कि कोर्ट के अनुसार, **राज्य मंत्रिमंडल** का मित्र, **दार्शनिक** और **मार्गदर्शक** होना चाहिए, न कि केंद्र का **राजनीतिक हथियार**।



# Understanding India's China conundrum

**GS Paper II: India-China**

**T**oday's China is evidently not the China of Deng Xiaoping. With the advent of Xi Jinping in 2013, China has changed even more and there is little indication that it has since retracted from this path. On the other hand, it is harking more and more to its past, wallowing in self-pity as a 'wronged' civilisation. As this becomes more pronounced, the need for caution becomes self-evident, at least as far as countries on its borders are concerned. China's border provocations, in the Himalayas for instance, can be traced to its determination to restore the Qing Dynasty frontiers, notwithstanding the evident weakness of these claims.

## From skirmishes to some de-escalation

The border skirmishes with India in Depsang (2013), Demchok (2016), Doklam (2017), and Galwan (2020) serve to confirm this hypothesis. The warm sentiments exchanged between leaders of India and China recently, therefore, need to be taken with a great deal of circumspection. Much of the rest of the world, apart from India, has been surprised by the recent outburst of sentiments. Caution is, thus, well merited, and it would be highly optimistic to treat the present as denoting a return to the Hu Jintao period – in the first decade of the century – which was a brief interregnum when relations appeared to veer towards normalcy.

A thaw in relations could be discerned towards the latter part of 2024, involving a de-escalation of operations at friction points on the border. Official references to this were, however, made only just prior to the BRICS Summit in Kazan (Russia) in October 2024. Outlines of the India-China Border Patrolling Agreement, nevertheless, remained sketchy, though they did appear to signal a breakthrough. The Agreement, focusing primarily on patrolling arrangements between the two sides in the Himalayas, has since been invested with far greater significance than a mere Border Patrolling Agreement. A 'degree of stand-off', however, still prevails along the Line of Actual Control.

It was China that was first off the mark. In November 2024, the Chinese Defence Ministry observed that India and China were implementing a settlement reached between the two countries for disengagement and resumption of patrolling. Even before the process had been completed, a Chinese Defence Ministry Spokesman (during a media briefing), observed "we look forward to a harmonious dance between the Chinese Dragon and the Indian Elephant with concerted steps".

In an interview with an American podcaster, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – who visited the United States in February 2025 – declared that normalcy had returned to the India-China border after his talks with President Xi Jinping in Kazan



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In its shadow play with Beijing, New Delhi must also be prepared for all eventualities

in October (2024), adding that "our cooperation is not only (mutually) beneficial, but also essential for global peace and prosperity". Subsequent to this, there has been mention of the revival of the SR (Special Representatives) talks in the near future.

De-escalation of tensions on the border and putting in place new 'patrolling arrangements' are important, but fall well short of robust negotiating stages. Specifics are, however, important in dealing with such issues, all the more so in the case of a nation such as China. In a world that is no longer considered multipolar, and where pluralism is at a severe disadvantage, most experts veer to the view that 'Might is again Right'. Also, that references to the 'rules based international order' have little meaning. Hence, the need for caution.

## A reality check

Meanwhile, China, in March, announced that it is increasing its Defence Budget by 7.2% over that of the previous year. This is approximately three times higher than that of India, and should serve as a warning to India. India's defence spending is currently believed to be less than 2% of its GDP, and the difference between a burgeoning Chinese Defence Budget and that of India's is a matter of concern. India and China are not about, or expected, to go to war in the near future, but India should not also be inveigled into accepting China's assertions and promises. The grim reality is that the People's Liberation Army today maintains over a lakh of soldiers (along with tanks, howitzers, surface-to-air missiles and heavy weaponry), in the icy Himalayan heights of Ladakh. This apart, there are reports that China is stocking-up on its nuclear weaponry (and while all reports about nuclear warheads are at best speculative), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and other reliable agencies suggest that in the recent past, Beijing has added another hundred nuclear warheads to its existing stockpile.

India should not be oblivious to the fact that while talking peace, China is strengthening its war-fighting capabilities (even though this may also be intended to withstand a U.S.-led attack). China's lead in Artificial Intelligence (AI) today also gives it a decided advantage in the realm of 'new age' warfare. Simultaneously, China has taken the lead as far as military applications of cyber, apart from AI, are concerned, becoming adept at AI-enabled cyber-security operations.

China already maintains a lead over India in aspects such as anti-satellite capabilities and has made rapid advancements in battlefield digital technologies, real-time data processing, predictive analytics and automated decision support systems. China is also understood to have a decisive advantage in aspects such as quantum technology. Hence, much more than

pious words will be needed to convince the world (India included) about China's real intentions before the Elephant and the Dragon can dance together. India must, hence, exercise utmost vigil.

## In the neighbourhood

Meanwhile, as a part of its current foreign policy initiatives, China has embarked on a quest for new friends in India's 'backyard'. India needs to be vigilant about this development. The latest is Bangladesh. After the eclipse of the Sheikh Hasina regime in Bangladesh, and a successful visit by Bangladesh's Chief Adviser, Mohammed Yunus, to China in March, Bangladesh has now come directly on China's radar, and is being viewed as a 'good friend'.

This development, apart from being an aspect of deep concern, creates a new void on India's eastern flank. What is also becoming evident is that even as India has been assiduously courting the U.S., it seems to be losing focus on strengthening and improving relations with countries in its immediate neighbourhood. This situation extends to West Asia and North Africa as well.

Again, if energy security remains the 'Holy Grail' for nations the world over, China appears to have stolen a march over India and many others, in the nuclear energy domain. It has been active in the African continent and has reportedly gained a beachhead there, in terms of nuclear energy resources, while other countries such as India (which are similarly hoping to increase their reliance on nuclear power) remain far behind. Irrespective of relations between India and China, nuclear energy will soon be an important component in the tussle for energy independence and influence. For now, China appears to have stolen a march over India with its successful foray into the African continent, even as their market is beginning to open up. Given the mounting intensity of great power competition, including between India and China, the scale and pace of China's military modernisation, and China's penchant for expanding its boundaries, India could well confront a difficult future, if it does not act in time and with necessary foresight.

Finally, in its shadow play with China, India must also be prepared for any and all eventualities. U.S. President Donald Trump, given his mercurial temperament, could well strike a deal with China – an eventuality that could upset and alter power equations across the globe. It might, hence, be prudent for India's leaders and strategists to take note of such an eventuality, if not for now in the not too distant future, and prepare for this eventuality. India and China are old civilisations and have overcome many problems in the past. This may be one more eventuality that India's leaders might have to anticipate and contend with even if it appears highly improbable at this point in time.

## Understanding India's China conundrum

### भारत की चीन से जुड़ी उलझन को समझना

Today's China is evidently not the China of Deng Xiaoping.

आज का चीन, स्पष्ट रूप से डेंग शियाओपिंग के युग का चीन नहीं है।

• With the advent of **Xi Jinping** in 2013, China has changed even more and there is little indication that it has since retracted from this path.



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2013 में शी जिनपिंग के आगमन के साथ चीन और भी बदल गया है, और इसके अपने रास्ते से हटने के कोई संकेत नहीं हैं।

• On the other hand, it is harking more and more to its past, wallowing in **self-pity** as a '**wronged civilisation**'.

दूसरी ओर, चीन अपने अतीत की ओर लौट रहा है और खुद को एक 'पीड़ित सभ्यता' के रूप में प्रस्तुत कर रहा है।

• As this becomes more pronounced, the **need for caution** becomes self-evident, at least as far as countries on its borders are concerned.

जैसे-जैसे यह दृष्टिकोण स्पष्ट होता जा रहा है, सावधानी की आवश्यकता अपने आप स्पष्ट हो जाती है, खासकर उन देशों के लिए जो इसकी सीमा पर स्थित हैं।

• China's **border provocations**, in the **Himalayas** for instance, can be traced to its determination to restore the **Qing Dynasty frontiers**, notwithstanding the evident weakness of these claims.

चीन की सीमा पर उकसाने वाली गतिविधियाँ, जैसे कि हिमालय में, इसकी यह मंशा दर्शाती हैं कि वह चिंग वंश की सीमाओं को फिर से स्थापित करना चाहता है, भले ही इन दावों की कमजोरी स्पष्ट हो।

## From skirmishes to some de-escalation

### झड़पों से कुछ तनाव घटाने तक

• The **border skirmishes** with India in **Depsang (2013)**, **Demchok (2016)**, **Doklam (2017)**, and **Galwan (2020)** serve to confirm this hypothesis.

**Depsang (2013)**, **Demchok (2016)**, **Doklam (2017)**, और **Galwan (2020)** में भारत के साथ हुई सीमाई झड़पें इस धारणा की पुष्टि करती हैं।

• The **warm sentiments** exchanged between leaders of India and China recently, therefore, need to be taken with a great deal of **circumspection**.

हाल ही में भारत और चीन के नेताओं के बीच व्यक्त किए गए सौहार्दपूर्ण भावनाओं को बहुत अधिक सावधानी से देखना चाहिए।

• Much of the rest of the world, apart from India, has been surprised by the recent **outburst of sentiments**.

भारत को छोड़कर दुनिया के अधिकांश देशों को हालिया भावनात्मक बदलाव से आश्चर्य हुआ है।

• Caution is, thus, well merited, and it would be highly optimistic to treat the present as denoting a return to the **Hu Jintao period** — in the **first decade** of the century — which was a brief interregnum when relations appeared to veer towards **normalcy**.

इसलिए, सावधानी उचित है, और वर्तमान को हु जिंताओ के समय — जो कि इस सदी के प्रारंभिक दशक में था — की ओर लौटना मान लेना अत्यधिक आशावादी सोच होगी, जब संबंध थोड़े सामान्य दिख रहे थे।

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• A **thaw in relations** could be discerned towards the latter part of **2024**, involving a **de-escalation** of operations at **friction points** on the border.

2024 के अंत में संबंधों में एक **नरमी** देखी गई, जिसमें सीमा के **संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों** में **तनाव कम करने** की कोशिशें की गईं।

• **Official references** to this were, however, made only just prior to the **BRICS Summit in Kazan (Russia) in October 2024**.

इस संबंध में **आधिकारिक संदर्भ** केवल **अक्टूबर 2024** में **कज़ान (रूस)** में हुई **ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन** से ठीक पहले दिए गए।

• Outlines of the **India-China Border Patrolling Agreement**, nevertheless, remained **sketchy**, though they did appear to signal a **breakthrough**.

**भारत-चीन सीमा गश्त समझौते** की रूपरेखा अभी भी **अधूरी** है, हालांकि इससे एक **उपलब्धि** की झलक जरूर मिलती है।

• The Agreement, focusing primarily on **patrolling arrangements** between the two sides in the **Himalayas**, has since been invested with far greater significance than a mere Border Patrolling Agreement.

यह समझौता, जो मुख्यतः **हिमालय** में दोनों पक्षों के बीच **गश्त व्यवस्था** पर केंद्रित है, अब एक सामान्य सीमा गश्ती समझौते से कहीं अधिक **महत्वपूर्ण** बन गया है।

• A 'degree of **stand-off**', however, still prevails along the **Line of Actual Control**.

हालांकि, **वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC)** पर अभी भी एक हद तक **तनावपूर्ण स्थिति** बनी हुई है।

• It was **China** that was first off the mark. In **November 2024**, the **Chinese Defence Ministry** observed that India and China were implementing a **settlement** reached between the two countries for **disengagement and resumption of patrolling**.

इस प्रक्रिया की **शुरुआत चीन** ने की थी। **नवंबर 2024** में **चीनी रक्षा मंत्रालय** ने कहा कि भारत और चीन के बीच **पैंगोंग झील** सहित कुछ स्थानों पर **डिसएंगेजमेंट** और **गश्त की बहाली** का समझौता लागू किया जा रहा है।

• Even before the process had been completed, a **Chinese Defence Ministry Spokesman** (during a media briefing), observed "we look forward to a **harmonious dance** between the **Chinese Dragon** and the **Indian Elephant** with **concerted steps**".

इस प्रक्रिया के पूरा होने से पहले ही, **चीनी रक्षा मंत्रालय** के प्रवक्ता ने एक प्रेस ब्रीफिंग में कहा, "हम **चीनी ड्रैगन** और **भारतीय हाथी** के बीच **सामंजसपूर्ण नृत्य** की उम्मीद करते हैं।"

• In an interview with an **American podcaster**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** — who visited the **United States** in **February 2025** — declared that **normalcy** had returned to the **India-China border** after his talks with **President Xi Jinping** in **Kazan in October (2024)**.

**फरवरी 2025** में **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** की यात्रा पर गए **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने एक **अमेरिकी पॉडकास्टर** को



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दिए साक्षात्कार में कहा कि अक्टूबर 2024 में कज़ान में शी जिनपिंग के साथ बातचीत के बाद भारत-चीन सीमा पर सामान्यता लौट आई है।

• He added that “our **cooperation** is not only **mutually beneficial**, but also **essential for global peace and prosperity**”.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि “हमारा सहयोग न केवल पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी है, बल्कि वैश्विक शांति और समृद्धि के लिए आवश्यक भी है।”

• Subsequent to this, there has been mention of the revival of the **SR (Special Representatives) talks** in the near future.

इसके बाद, निकट भविष्य में एसआर (विशेष प्रतिनिधि) वार्ता को फिर से शुरू करने की चर्चा हुई है।

• **De-escalation** of tensions on the border and putting in place new ‘**patrolling arrangements**’ are important, but fall well short of **robust negotiating stages**.

सीमा पर तनाव कम करना और नई गंभीर व्यवस्था लागू करना महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन यह अभी भी मजबूत वार्ताओं से काफी दूर है।

• **Specifics** are, however, important in dealing with such issues, all the more so in the case of a nation such as **China**.

हालांकि, ऐसे मामलों में ठोस विवरण अहम होते हैं, खासकर चीन जैसे देश के मामले में।

• In a world that is no longer considered **multipolar**, and where **pluralism** is at a severe disadvantage, most experts veer to the view that ‘**Might is again Right**’.

आज की दुनिया को अब बहुध्रुवीय नहीं माना जाता, और जहाँ बहुलवाद को नुकसान हो रहा है, अधिकांश विशेषज्ञ मानते हैं कि ‘बल ही फिर से न्याय है’।

• Also, that references to the ‘**rules-based international order**’ have little meaning. Hence, the need for **caution**.

साथ ही, ‘नियम आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था’ का उल्लेख अब ज़्यादा प्रासंगिक नहीं रह गया है। इसलिए, सावधानी की आवश्यकता है।

## A Reality Check

### एक हकीकत की जांच

• In **March**, China announced that it is increasing its **Defence Budget by 7.2%** over that of the previous year.

मार्च में, चीन ने घोषणा की कि वह अपने पिछले वर्ष के मुकाबले रक्षा बजट में 7.2% की वृद्धि कर रहा है।

• This is approximately **three times higher** than that of India, and should serve as a **warning to India**.

यह भारत के मुकाबले लगभग तीन गुना अधिक है और भारत के लिए एक चेतावनी के रूप में काम करना चाहिए।

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• India's defence spending is currently believed to be **less than 2% of its GDP**, and the difference between a burgeoning Chinese defence budget and that of India's is a matter of concern.

भारत का रक्षा खर्च वर्तमान में इसके **GDP का 2% से भी कम** माना जाता है, और चीन के बढ़ते रक्षा बजट और भारत के बीच का अंतर **चिंता का विषय** है।

• India and China are not about, or expected, to go to war in the near future, but India should not also be inveigled into accepting China's assertions and promises.

भारत और चीन निकट भविष्य में युद्ध की ओर नहीं बढ़ रहे हैं और न ही इसकी उम्मीद है, लेकिन भारत को चीन के **दावों और वादों** को बिना सोचे-समझे स्वीकार नहीं करना चाहिए।

• The grim reality is that the **People's Liberation Army** today maintains **over a lakh of soldiers** (along with **tanks, howitzers, surface-to-air missiles and heavy weaponry**) in the icy Himalayan heights of Ladakh.

कड़वी सच्चाई यह है कि **पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी** आज **लद्दाख के बर्फीले हिमालयी क्षेत्रों में एक लाख से अधिक सैनिकों** (साथ ही **टैंक, हॉविट्जर, सतह से हवा में मार करने वाली मिसाइलें और भारी हथियार**) को तैनात किए हुए है।

• There are reports that China is **stocking-up on its nuclear weaponry**, and **SIPRI** suggests that **Beijing** has added **another hundred nuclear warheads** to its existing stockpile.

रिपोर्टों के अनुसार चीन अपने **परमाणु हथियारों का भंडारण** कर रहा है, और **स्टॉकहोम इंटरनेशनल पीस रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (SIPRI)** का मानना है कि **बीजिंग** ने अपने मौजूदा भंडार में **100 परमाणु हथियार** और जोड़ दिए हैं।

• While talking peace, China is **strengthening its war-fighting capabilities** (even if this is also intended to withstand a **U.S.-led attack**).

शांति की बात करते हुए भी, चीन अपनी **युद्ध क्षमता को मजबूत** कर रहा है (भले ही यह **अमेरिका द्वारा नेतृत्व किए हमले से निपटने के लिए** हो)।

• China's lead in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** today gives it a **decided advantage** in 'new age' warfare.

**आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI)** में चीन की बढ़त आज उसे **नई पीढ़ी के युद्ध में एक स्पष्ट बढ़त** देती है।

• China has also advanced in **military applications of cyber, anti-satellite capabilities, digital battlefield tech, real-time data processing, predictive analytics, and automated decision systems**.

चीन ने **साइबर के सैन्य उपयोग, एंटी-सैटेलाइट क्षमताओं, डिजिटल युद्ध तकनीक, रियल-टाइम डेटा प्रोसेसिंग, पूर्वानुमान विश्लेषण और स्वचालित निर्णय प्रणाली** में भी बड़ी तरक्की की है।

• China is also believed to have a **decisive advantage in quantum technology**.

चीन को **क्वांटम तकनीक में भी निर्णायक बढ़त** हासिल होने का अनुमान है।



• Much more than pious words will be needed to convince the world about China's real intentions before the **Elephant and the Dragon** can dance together.

हाथी और ड्रैगन के एक साथ नाचने से पहले दुनिया को चीन की असली मंशाओं के बारे में विश्वास दिलाने के लिए सिर्फ शुभकामनाएं काफी नहीं होंगी।

• India must exercise **utmost vigil**.

भारत को अत्यधिक सतर्कता बरतनी चाहिए।

## In the Neighbourhood

### पड़ोसी क्षेत्र में

• China has embarked on a **quest for new friends in India's 'backyard'** as part of its **foreign policy initiatives**.

चीन ने अपनी विदेश नीति पहलों के तहत भारत के 'पिछवाड़े' में नए मित्रों की खोज शुरू की है।

• The latest is **Bangladesh**. After the eclipse of the **Sheikh Hasina regime**, and a successful visit by **Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Mohammed Yunus** to China in **March**, Bangladesh is now being seen as a **'good friend'** by China.

इसमें बांग्लादेश सबसे नया उदाहरण है। शेख हसीना शासन के कमजोर होने और मार्च में मुख्य सलाहकार मोहम्मद यूनस की चीन यात्रा के बाद, चीन अब बांग्लादेश को 'अच्छा मित्र' मान रहा है।

• This creates a **new void on India's eastern flank** and is a matter of **deep concern**.

यह भारत के पूर्वी हिस्से में एक नया शून्य उत्पन्न करता है और गंभीर चिंता का विषय है।

• While India is courting the **U.S.**, it seems to be **losing focus** on **neighbourhood relations** including **West Asia and North Africa**.

जब भारत अमेरिका के साथ रिश्ते मजबूत कर रहा है, तब वह पड़ोसी देशों और पश्चिम एशिया और उत्तर अफ्रीका के साथ संबंध मजबूत करने पर ध्यान नहीं दे रहा है।

• In the domain of **energy security**, China has gained an edge, especially in the **nuclear energy sector**, with a significant presence in the **African continent**.

ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में, विशेष रूप से परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में, चीन ने बढ़त बना ली है और उसका अफ्रीकी महाद्वीप में प्रभावशाली दखल है।

• Other countries like India still **remain far behind** in this aspect.

भारत जैसे अन्य देश इस क्षेत्र में अभी भी काफी पीछे हैं।

• **Nuclear energy** will become an important component in the future **tussle for energy independence and influence**.

परमाणु ऊर्जा भविष्य में ऊर्जा स्वतंत्रता और प्रभाव की लड़ाई में एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक बन जाएगी।



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• Given the **intensity of great power competition**, **China's military modernisation**, and its **boundary expansionist mindset**, India could face a **difficult future** if it does not act **in time and with foresight**.

महाशक्तियों की प्रतिस्पर्धा, चीन के सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण और सीमाओं के विस्तार की मानसिकता को देखते हुए, यदि भारत समय पर और दूरदर्शिता के साथ कार्रवाई नहीं करता तो उसे कठिन भविष्य का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

• India must be prepared for **any and all eventualities**, including the possibility of a **U.S.-China deal** under a **mercurial leader like Donald Trump**.

भारत को हर संभावित स्थिति के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए, जिसमें डोनाल्ड ट्रंप जैसे अनुमान से बाहर जाने वाले नेता के तहत अमेरिका-चीन समझौते की संभावना भी शामिल है।

• India and China are **old civilisations** and have overcome many problems in the past.

भारत और चीन प्राचीन सभ्यताएं हैं और उन्होंने अतीत में कई समस्याओं को सुलझाया है।

• This may be one more **eventuality** that India's leaders may need to **anticipate and handle**, even if it appears **improbable** at this time.

यह एक और संभावित परिस्थिति हो सकती है जिससे भारत के नेताओं को सावधानीपूर्वक निपटना पड़ सकता है, भले ही यह इस समय असंभव लग रही हो।



## The pandemic — looking back, looking forward

**GS Paper II: Health Sector**

“The only possible answer to the question of how we can survive the plague is by living.” — José Saramago

Last month, March, we marked five years of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. By now, we have had events, conferences, editorials, policy statements and thought leadership internationally. And there could also be some of us left pondering about Saramago. Have we learnt enough as a society and moved toward a healthier, more innovative and inclusive society by picking up lessons from the pandemic?

The learnings are of course stark and have necessitated a fundamental rethink about trust, the role of technology, our responsibility towards the vulnerable, and the architecture of health and innovation in the Global South and North.

### Some of the critical lessons

It was from the pandemic that we learnt about the fragility of trust in health-care institutions and public health guidance. Several studies indicated that low trust and confidence in health-care service delivery could hinder the adoption of non-pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical interventions broadly, like for tests and vaccines. This also showed up as a heterogeneity in confidence in health-care systems, impacting mobility and compliance worldwide during the pandemic.

In India, the heterogeneity in reported COVID-19 infections in the early stages pointed to a variation in confidence levels in the health-care sector — as highlighted by reports of the underreporting of excess mortality that was later published in Science. Other countries faced communication failures, as seen in vulnerable economies. Overall, this underscores the critical role of government in convincing populations about the effectiveness of preventive measures. Public health interventions are predicated on public trust, and any erosion of this foundation can severely undermine pandemic response efforts tomorrow.

Technology, a double-edged sword, has also witnessed an unprecedented acceleration in its



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While there have been many lessons concerning public health responses, innovation and global equity, there is still a lot of unfinished work left

adoption even as it has starkly revealed the digital divide between the privileged and the underserved and also impacting vulnerable populations during work or study from home.

The pandemic propelled the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in pharmaceutical innovation. This writer's research at the University of Sussex with patent data showed a sharp increase in the presence and the count of AI keywords in pharmaceutical patent abstracts after the onset of COVID-19, suggesting increased use of innovative technologies in this sector (further validated by the Nobel Prize awarded to Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper of DeepMind and the rapid progress in drug discovery and innovation spurred by AI). Telemedicine experienced a reinvigoration, offering an alternative way to providing health care amidst restrictions on movement and face-to-face encounters. While digital technology offers solutions, equitable access remains a significant challenge, particularly in developing economies, despite the global surge in digital health interventions.

### Vulnerabilities were amplified

We also learnt, brutally, about an amplification of existing vulnerabilities, leading to concerns that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been significantly compromised, particularly in vulnerable, resource-poor economies. The disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on women, concerning childcare, work and mental health, was a critical lesson. Access to health-care services became a major challenge. The experience highlighted the urgent need for policies and investments that specifically address the needs of vulnerable groups to ensure equitable access to care and mitigate disproportionate impacts during health emergencies. The pandemic also triggered a silent pandemic of global mental health challenges. The pandemic has severely affected global workplace productivity, with no stable solution as yet to address this structurally and sustainably as debates around work-from-home or hybrid models continue globally.

COVID-19 laid bare inherent weaknesses in

health systems globally, emphasising the necessity of having universal health insurance coverage. The pre-pandemic health systems in India and other Global South nations had inherent weaknesses in addressing public goods and institutional capacity. National oxygen capabilities are now an important issue to address respiratory pathogens circulating for tomorrow's pandemic, as research from U-Edinburgh has pointed out. The concept of “hybrid” solutions, coupling digital technology with existing infrastructure, emerged as a potential pathway for delivering care in a cost-optimal manner. So did public-private collaborations in research and development and health delivery. But on many occasions, these efforts have gone away in various countries after the pandemic has subsided. The need for a central public health officer to harmonise efforts and reduce coordination costs, especially in countries with decentralised health systems, has become increasingly apparent.

The crisis also brought into focus the contentious issue of profiteering. Debates surrounding intellectual property (IP) waivers for COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics highlighted the tension between protecting innovation and ensuring equitable global access. Africa suffered significantly due to vaccine nationalism, amplifying the need for South-South collaboration for future pandemics in this Anthropocene.

### In perspective

Overall, five years since the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems like we may have flattened the curve on health, innovation and the economy, but there is a lot of unfinished work. Whether we will be able to usher in ‘One World and One Health’ or remain mired in protectionist tendencies globally, reflecting on national health security considerations, remains to be seen. Yes, for those left behind on this planet, we are living beyond the pandemic — to allude to Saramago. But are we learning and actively breathing to create globally health-resilient inclusive societies tomorrow? One is left to wonder.

## The pandemic — looking back, looking forward

### महामारी — पीछे देखना, आगे बढ़ना

• The only possible answer to the question of how we can survive the plague is by living.” — José Saramago

“प्लेग से कैसे बचा जा सकता है इसका एकमात्र उत्तर है — जी कर।” — जोसे सारामागो

• Last month, March, we marked five years of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world.

पिछले महीने, मार्च में, हमने दुनिया भर में कोविड-19 महामारी के पांच साल पूरे किए।

• By now, we have had events, conferences, editorials, policy statements and thought leadership internationally.

अब तक, हमने अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर इवेंट्स, सम्मेलन, संपादकीय, नीतिगत घोषणाएं और विचार नेतृत्व देखा

गए।



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• And there could also be some of us left pondering about **Saramago**.  
और हो सकता है कि हम में से कुछ लोग अभी भी **सारामागो** के विचारों पर सोच रहे हों।

• Have we learnt enough as a society and moved toward a **healthier, more innovative and inclusive society** by picking up lessons from the pandemic?  
क्या हमने महामारी से सीख लेकर एक **स्वस्थ, नवोन्मेषी और समावेशी समाज** की ओर पर्याप्त कदम उठाए हैं?

## The learnings are of course stark सीख बिल्कुल स्पष्ट हैं

• They have necessitated a **fundamental rethink** about **trust**, the role of **technology**, our responsibility towards the **vulnerable**, and the **architecture of health and innovation** in the **Global South and North**.  
इसने विश्वास, प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका, कमजोर वर्गों के प्रति जिम्मेदारी, और वैश्विक दक्षिण और उत्तर में स्वास्थ्य और नवाचार की संरचना पर मूलभूत पुनर्विचार को अनिवार्य बना दिया है।

## Some of the critical lessons कुछ महत्वपूर्ण सबक

• It was from the **pandemic** that we learnt about the **fragility of trust** in **health-care institutions** and **public health guidance**.

हमें महामारी से स्वास्थ्य संस्थाओं और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य मार्गदर्शन में विश्वास की नाजुकता का पता चला।

• Several studies indicated that **low trust** and confidence in **health-care service delivery** could hinder the adoption of **non-pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical interventions**, like **tests and vaccines**.

कई अध्ययनों ने संकेत दिया कि **स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में कम विश्वास** और आत्मविश्वास जांच और टीकों जैसी **औषध और गैर-औषध हस्तक्षेपों** को अपनाने में बाधा बन सकते हैं।

• This also showed up as a **heterogeneity** in confidence in health-care systems, impacting **mobility and compliance** worldwide during the pandemic.

यह स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों में **विश्वास के स्तर में असमानता** के रूप में भी दिखाई दिया, जिससे महामारी के दौरान वैश्विक स्तर पर **गतिशीलता और अनुपालन** प्रभावित हुआ।

• In **India**, the heterogeneity in reported **COVID-19 infections** in the early stages pointed to a variation in **confidence levels in the health-care sector**.

**भारत** में महामारी के शुरुआती चरणों में दर्ज की गई **कोविड-19 संक्रमण दरों** की विविधता ने **स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में विश्वास के स्तर में अंतर** को दर्शाया।



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• This was highlighted by reports of the **underreporting of excess mortality**, later published in **Science**.

इसकी पुष्टि **Science** पत्रिका में बाद में प्रकाशित अधिक मृत्यु दर की कम रिपोर्टिंग की रिपोर्टों से हुई।

• Other countries faced **communication failures**, especially in **vulnerable economies**.

अन्य देशों ने भी संचार विफलताओं का सामना किया, विशेषकर कमजोर अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में।

• Overall, this underscores the **critical role of government** in convincing populations about the **effectiveness of preventive measures**.

कुल मिलाकर, यह रोकथाम उपायों की प्रभावशीलता को लेकर लोगों को विश्वास दिलाने में सरकार की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को रेखांकित करता है।

• **Public health interventions** are predicated on **public trust**, and any erosion of this foundation can **severely undermine** future **pandemic response efforts**.

सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य हस्तक्षेप का आधार जनता का विश्वास होता है, और इस नींव का कमजोर होना भविष्य की महामारी प्रतिक्रिया को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित कर सकता है।

## Technology: a double-edged sword

### प्रौद्योगिकी: एक दोधारी तलवार

• Technology has witnessed an **unprecedented acceleration** in its adoption, even as it revealed the **digital divide** between the **privileged** and the **underserved**.

प्रौद्योगिकी के उपयोग में अभूतपूर्व तेजी आई, लेकिन इसके साथ ही वंचित और सशक्त वर्गों के बीच डिजिटल अंतर भी उजागर हुआ।

• It also impacted **vulnerable populations** during **work or study from home**.

इसने घर से काम या पढ़ाई के दौरान कमजोर वर्गों को भी प्रभावित किया।

• The pandemic propelled the use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in **pharmaceutical innovation**.

महामारी ने औषध नवाचार में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) के उपयोग को तेज किया।

• This writer's research at the **University of Sussex** with **patent data** showed a sharp increase in **AI keywords** in **pharmaceutical patent abstracts** after **COVID-19**.

लेखक के **University of Sussex** में पेटेंट डेटा पर किए गए शोध ने दिखाया कि कोविड-19 के बाद औषध पेटेंट सारांशों में AI संबंधित शब्दों की संख्या में तेजी से वृद्धि हुई।

• This suggests increased use of **innovative technologies** in this sector.

यह इस क्षेत्र में नवाचार तकनीकों के बढ़ते उपयोग को दर्शाता है।

• It was further validated by the **Nobel Prize** awarded to **Demis Hassabis** and **John M. Jumper** of **DeepMind**, and the **rapid progress in drug discovery and innovation** spurred by AI.

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इसे DeepMind के Demis Hassabis और John M. Jumper को मिले नोबेल पुरस्कार और AI द्वारा प्रेरित दवा खोज और नवाचार में तीव्र प्रगति ने और पुष्ट किया।

• **Telemedicine** experienced a **reinvigoration**, offering an alternative way to provide health care amidst **restrictions on movement** and **face-to-face encounters**.

टेलीमेडिसिन को नई ऊर्जा मिली, जो आवागमन और आमने-सामने मिलने पर लगी पाबंदियों के बीच स्वास्थ्य सेवा देने का विकल्प बना।

• While **digital technology** offers solutions, **equitable access** remains a significant challenge. डिजिटल तकनीक समाधान तो देती है, लेकिन **समान पहुंच** अभी भी एक बड़ी चुनौती है।

• This is particularly true in **developing economies**, despite the **global surge in digital health interventions**.

यह विशेषकर **विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्थाओं** में सच है, भले ही वैश्विक स्तर पर डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य उपायों में वृद्धि हुई हो।

## **Vulnerabilities were amplified**

### **कमजोरियों का बढ़ना**

• We also learnt, brutally, about an **amplification of existing vulnerabilities**, leading to concerns that the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** has been significantly compromised, particularly in **vulnerable, resource-poor economies**.

हमें यह भी **कठोरता से** सीखने को मिला कि **पहले से मौजूद कमजोरियों में वृद्धि हुई है**, जिससे यह चिंता पैदा हुई कि **2030 के सतत विकास लक्ष्य** विशेष रूप से **कमजोर और संसाधन-गरीब अर्थव्यवस्थाओं** में गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हुए हैं।

• The **disproportionate effect** of COVID-19 on **women**, concerning **childcare, work and mental health**, was a critical lesson.

**कोविड-19 का महिलाओं पर बाल देखभाल, काम और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य को लेकर असमान प्रभाव** एक महत्वपूर्ण सीख थी।

• **Access to health-care services** became a **major challenge**.

**स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुंच** एक बड़ी चुनौती बन गई।

• The experience highlighted the **urgent need for policies and investments** that specifically address the **needs of vulnerable groups** to ensure **equitable access** to care and **mitigate disproportionate impacts** during health emergencies.

इस अनुभव ने यह दिखाया कि **कमजोर वर्गों की आवश्यकताओं** को ध्यान में रखते हुए **नीतियों और निवेश की तत्काल आवश्यकता** है, ताकि **स्वास्थ्य आपात स्थितियों में समान देखभाल** मिल सके और **असमान प्रभावों को कम** किया जा सके।

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- The pandemic also triggered a **silent pandemic** of **global mental health challenges**.

महामारी ने वैश्विक मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं की एक मौन महामारी को भी जन्म दिया।

- The pandemic has **severely affected global workplace productivity**, with no **stable solution** as yet to address this **structurally and sustainably**, as debates around **work-from-home or hybrid models** continue globally.

महामारी ने वैश्विक कार्यस्थल की उत्पादकता को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित किया है, और संरचनात्मक व सतत समाधान अभी तक सामने नहीं आया है, जबकि घर से काम और हाइब्रिड मॉडल को लेकर वैश्विक बहस जारी है।

### COVID-19 laid bare health system weaknesses

कोविड-19 ने स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की कमजोरियों को उजागर किया

- COVID-19 laid bare **inherent weaknesses** in **health systems globally**, emphasising the **necessity of universal health insurance coverage**.

कोविड-19 ने वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों में मौजूद अंतर्निहित कमजोरियों को उजागर किया और सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य बीमा कवरेज की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित किया।

- The **pre-pandemic health systems** in **India** and other **Global South nations** had **inherent weaknesses** in addressing **public goods** and **institutional capacity**.

भारत और अन्य वैश्विक दक्षिण देशों की महामारी से पहले की स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों में सार्वजनिक सेवाएं और संस्थागत क्षमता से निपटने में मूलभूत कमजोरियां थीं।

- **National oxygen capabilities** are now an **important issue** to address **respiratory pathogens** circulating for **tomorrow's pandemic**, as research from **U-Edinburgh** has pointed out.

U-Edinburgh के शोध के अनुसार, राष्ट्रीय ऑक्सीजन क्षमताएं अब भविष्य की महामारी में फैलने वाले श्वसन रोगजनकों से निपटने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा हैं।

- The concept of **“hybrid” solutions**, coupling **digital technology** with **existing infrastructure**, emerged as a **potential pathway** for delivering care in a **cost-optimal manner**.

डिजिटल तकनीक को मौजूदा ढांचे से जोड़ने वाले “हाइब्रिड” समाधानों की अवधारणा कम लागत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं देने का एक संभावित रास्ता बनकर उभरी।

- So did **public-private collaborations** in **research and development** and **health delivery**.

इसी तरह अनुसंधान, विकास और स्वास्थ्य सेवा वितरण में सार्वजनिक-निजी सहयोग भी उभरे।

- But on many occasions, these efforts have **gone away** in various countries after the **pandemic has subsided**.

हालांकि, कई बार महामारी कम होने के बाद ये प्रयास कई देशों में समाप्त हो गए।

- The need for a **central public health officer** to **harmonise efforts** and **reduce coordination costs**, especially in countries with **decentralised health systems**, has become **increasingly**

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apparent.

विकेन्द्रीकृत स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों वाले देशों में समन्वय लागत कम करने और प्रयासों को एकीकृत करने के लिए एक केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी की आवश्यकता अब स्पष्ट होती जा रही है।

## Contentious issue of profiteering

### लाभ कमाने का विवादास्पद मुद्दा

• The crisis also brought into focus the **contentious issue** of **profiteering**.

इस संकट ने लाभ कमाने के विवादास्पद मुद्दे को भी उजागर किया।

• Debates surrounding **intellectual property (IP) waivers** for **COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics** highlighted the **tension** between **protecting innovation** and **ensuring equitable global access**.

कोविड-19 टीकों, जांच और उपचार के लिए बौद्धिक संपदा (IP) छूट को लेकर बहस ने नवाचार की रक्षा और वैश्विक स्तर पर समान पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने के बीच की तनावपूर्ण स्थिति को उजागर किया।

• **Africa** suffered significantly due to **vaccine nationalism**, amplifying the need for **South-South collaboration** for **future pandemics** in this **Anthropocene**.

अफ्रीका को वैक्सीन राष्ट्रवाद के कारण गंभीर नुकसान हुआ, जिससे इस मानवकाल (Anthropocene) में भविष्य की महामारियों से निपटने के लिए दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग की आवश्यकता और बढ़ गई।

## In perspective

### समग्र दृष्टिकोण में

• Overall, **five years** since the **COVID-19 pandemic**, it seems like we may have **flattened the curve** on **health, innovation and the economy**, but there is a lot of **unfinished work**.

कुल मिलाकर, कोविड-19 महामारी के पांच साल बाद ऐसा लगता है कि हमने स्वास्थ्य, नवाचार और अर्थव्यवस्था में गति को नियंत्रित किया है, लेकिन अभी भी बहुत सा काम अधूरा है।

• Whether we will be able to usher in **'One World and One Health'** or remain mired in **protectionist tendencies globally**, reflecting on **national health security considerations**, remains to be seen.

क्या हम 'एक विश्व, एक स्वास्थ्य' की अवधारणा को लागू कर पाएंगे या वैश्विक संरक्षणवादी प्रवृत्तियों में उलझे रहेंगे, यह राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा के नजरिए से अभी देखना बाकी है।

• Yes, for those **left behind** on this planet, we are living **beyond the pandemic** — to allude to **Saramago**.

हां, इस ग्रह पर पीछे छोटे लोगों के लिए हम अब महामारी के पार जी रहे हैं — जैसा कि सारामागो ने कहा।

• But are we **learning** and **actively breathing** to create **globally health-resilient inclusive societies tomorrow**? One is left to wonder.



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लेकिन क्या हम सीख रहे हैं और सक्रिय रूप से प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि हम भविष्य में वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य-सक्षम और समावेशी समाज बना सकें? यह एक सोचने का विषय है।

GS Paper II: India-US

## Home and abroad

India must improve research infrastructure to serve its students

**T**he ongoing programme of revoking the visas of foreign students in the U.S., ostensibly for opposing the country's foreign policy, is a direct outcome of the xenophobic tendency in the Trump administration. The danger is that the 'Make America Great Again' movement that propelled Donald Trump into the Presidency may soon permeate deep into campus life too. In any case, the number of Indian students enrolling in U.S. universities has been on a downward trend since last year – even before the drumbeats of hostility started. Indian students are already finding other countries such as Germany attractive for lower costs and greater flexibility to self-fund their education through work. Enrolment figures for September this year will demonstrate how attractive the U.S. still is for Indian students despite the looming cancellation of the Optional Practical Training programme that offered a segue for foreign students to working in the U.S. All this, together with the defunding of research and arm-twisting of universities in a country known to value academic freedom, has indeed lowered, if not upended, the regard that people outside had for the U.S.

Many countries have sought to leverage the decline of the U.S. as a destination for talent. Reports talk about European institutions welcoming disgruntled U.S.-based researchers, ironically noting that scientists and researchers fleeing persecution greatly contributed to American progress in the past. For a while now, Indian returnees have been driven in-part towards a desire to come back home or even serve their motherland. Professional achievement or the opportunity to do high-end research has not always been a big driver towards India attracting back its people. While, outwardly, new vistas have opened, research opportunities have expanded, and the fight for funds is less intense, in part due to the encouragement given to private institutions, much work remains to be done. Loosening up the government's purse strings and goading private institutions to invest in research more may only be the starting point. What often puts off returnees is the daily struggle in India. The struggle not only characterises everyday social life but also the workplace. Collaboration between institutions or even across departments is a tough sell. The suffocating social norms and hierarchies are a downer. Lastly, the academic freedom that Indians are used to enjoying elsewhere will need to be recreated. That would require a complete overhaul in the Indian government's attitude to liberal values and towards foreigners, which often borders on the Trumpian.

## Home and abroad

### घर और विदेश

## India must improve research infrastructure to serve its students

### भारत को अपने छात्रों की सेवा के लिए अनुसंधान ढांचे को सुधारना चाहिए

• The ongoing programme of **revoking the visas of foreign students in the U.S.**, ostensibly for **opposing the country's foreign policy**, is a direct outcome of the **xenophobic tendency in the Trump administration**.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में विदेशी छात्रों के वीजा रद्द करने का चल रहा कार्यक्रम, जो कि देश की विदेश नीति का विरोध करने के कारण किया जा रहा है, ट्रंप प्रशासन की विदेशी-विरोधी प्रवृत्ति का प्रत्यक्ष परिणाम है।

• The danger is that the **'Make America Great Again' movement** that propelled **Donald Trump** into the Presidency may soon **permeate deep into campus life too**.

खतरा यह है कि **'Make America Great Again'** आंदोलन, जिसने **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** को राष्ट्रपति बनाया, जल्द ही कॉलेज परिसरों के जीवन में भी गहराई तक प्रवेश कर सकता है।

• In any case, the number of **Indian students enrolling in U.S. universities** has been on a **downward trend since last year** – even before the **drumbeats of hostility** started.

वैसे भी, अमेरिका की यूनिवर्सिटियों में नामांकन करने वाले भारतीय छात्रों की संख्या पिछले वर्ष से ही घट रही है — यहां तक कि शत्रुता के संकेत शुरू होने से पहले ही।

• **Indian students** are already finding **other countries** such as **Germany** attractive for **lower costs** and greater **flexibility to self-fund their education through work**.

भारतीय छात्र पहले से ही कम लागत और काम के माध्यम से अपनी पढ़ाई

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खुद फाइनेंस करने की लचीलापन के कारण जर्मनी जैसे अन्य देशों को आकर्षक पा रहे हैं।

• **Enrolment figures for September** this year will demonstrate how attractive the **U.S. still is** for Indian students despite the **looming cancellation** of the **Optional Practical Training (OPT)** programme.

इस वर्ष के सितंबर महीने के नामांकन आंकड़े यह दिखाएंगे कि **Optional Practical Training (OPT)** प्रोग्राम को रद्द किए जाने की आशंका के बावजूद अमेरिका अभी भी भारतीय छात्रों के लिए कितना आकर्षक है।

• All this, together with the **defunding of research** and **arm-twisting of universities** in a country known to value **academic freedom**, has indeed **lowered**, if not **upended**, the regard that people outside had for the **U.S.**

शोध को फंडिंग न देना और यूनिवर्सिटियों पर दबाव डालना, जो कि शैक्षणिक स्वतंत्रता को महत्व देने वाले देश में हो रहा है, ने निश्चित रूप से अमेरिका की साख को गिरा दिया है — अगर उलट नहीं दिया तो।

• Many countries have sought to **leverage the decline of the U.S.** as a destination for **talent**. कई देशों ने प्रतिभा के गंतव्य के रूप में अमेरिका की गिरती स्थिति का लाभ उठाने की कोशिश की है।

• Reports talk about **European institutions welcoming disgruntled U.S.-based researchers**, ironically noting that **scientists fleeing persecution** once **greatly contributed to American progress**.

रिपोर्टों में उल्लेख है कि यूरोपीय संस्थान अमेरिका में असंतुष्ट शोधकर्ताओं का स्वागत कर रहे हैं, और विडंबना यह है कि कभी उत्पीड़न से भागे वैज्ञानिकों ने अमेरिका की प्रगति में बड़ा योगदान दिया था।

• For a while now, **Indian returnees** have been driven in-part towards a desire to **come back home** or even **serve their motherland**.

अब कुछ समय से, वापसी करने वाले भारतीय घर लौटने या अपने देश की सेवा करने की इच्छा से प्रेरित हो रहे हैं।

• **Professional achievement** or the opportunity to do **high-end research** has not always been a **big driver** towards India attracting back its people.

पेशेवर उपलब्धि या उच्च स्तरीय अनुसंधान करने का अवसर हमेशा भारत में लोगों को वापस लाने का बड़ा कारण नहीं रहा है।

• While outwardly, **new vistas** have opened, **research opportunities** have expanded, and the **fight for funds** is **less intense**, in part due to the **encouragement given to private institutions**, much work remains to be done.

हालांकि बाहर से देखने पर नई संभावनाएं खुली हैं, अनुसंधान के अवसर बढ़े हैं और फंडिंग की प्रतिस्पर्धा कुछ हद तक कम हुई है, निजी संस्थानों को प्रोत्साहन दिए जाने के कारण, फिर भी बहुत काम बाकी है।

• **Loosening up the government's purse strings** and **goading private institutions** to invest in research more may only be the **starting point**.



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सरकार द्वारा फंडिंग में ढील देना और निजी संस्थानों को अनुसंधान में निवेश के लिए प्रेरित करना केवल एक शुरुआत हो सकती है।

- What often puts off returnees is the daily struggle in India.  
जो चीज़ें अक्सर वापसी करने वालों को रोकती हैं, वे हैं भारत में रोजमर्रा की कठिनाइयां।
- The struggle not only characterises everyday social life but also the workplace.  
यह संघर्ष सिर्फ सामाजिक जीवन में ही नहीं, बल्कि कामकाज के माहौल में भी है।
- Collaboration between institutions or even across departments is a tough sell.  
संस्थानों या यहां तक कि विभागों के बीच सहयोग करना भी एक कठिन कार्य है।
- The suffocating social norms and hierarchies are a downer.  
दम घोटने वाले सामाजिक नियम और पदानुक्रम एक नकारात्मक पहलू हैं।
- Lastly, the academic freedom that Indians are used to enjoying elsewhere will need to be recreated.  
अंततः, भारतीय जो शैक्षणिक स्वतंत्रता विदेशों में अनुभव करते हैं, उसे फिर से भारत में स्थापित करने की जरूरत है।
- That would require a complete overhaul in the Indian government's attitude to liberal values and towards foreigners, which often borders on the Trumpian.  
इसके लिए भारतीय सरकार के उदार मूल्यों और विदेशियों के प्रति दृष्टिकोण में पूरी तरह से बदलाव की आवश्यकता होगी, जो अक्सर ट्रंप शैली के समान हो जाता है।



# The Rohingya are on the brink of starvation

## GS Paper II: Rohingya

**D**uring his four-day visit to Bangladesh in March, **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres** visited **Cox's Bazar**, the site of one of the world's most overlooked humanitarian crisis. Over a million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar are teetering on the edge of catastrophe. Now, their fragile existence has made even more precarious by the Trump administration's abrupt shutdown of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding.

USAID, historically the largest donor to humanitarian causes, spent about \$40 billion a year globally. This has been slashed by the Department of Government Efficiency, led by billionaire and senior adviser to Mr. Trump, Elon Musk. It is ironic that the U.S., which in 2022 declared the atrocities against the Rohingya a 'genocide', signalling a commitment to respecting and protecting human rights, is today pulling the plug on the very aid that has kept over a million displaced Rohingya alive in Bangladesh, the second-largest recipient of USAID in South Asia.

### Catastrophic consequences

The decision to slash USAID funding has sent shockwaves through the global humanitarian community. It has severed a vital lifeline and exposed refugees around the world to starvation, disease, and insecurity. For the Rohingya, who have already endured genocide, exile, and decades of statelessness, the consequences of the decision have been catastrophic. The World Food Programme, which relies largely on U.S. funding, has been forced to cut already meagre rations from \$12.50 per refugee per month to an unsustainable \$6. Medical aid has dwindled, with at least five hospitals shutting down, and sanitation programmes collapsing. This is a manufactured crisis, an ideological experiment in dismantling global aid, carried



**Syed Munir Khasru**

Senior Director of the international think tank IPAG India.

Their fragile existence has made even more precarious by the abrupt shutdown of USAID funding

out on the backs of the world's most vulnerable people.

### A weak moral compass

Mr. Musk's opposition to foreign aid is not new. He has long dismissed USAID as a "financial black hole." His gleeful participation in its dismantling reveals a deeper ideological inclination: a tech billionaire's fantasy of replacing structured aid with privatised, profit-driven solutions. Mr. Musk, like many libertarians, believes that markets solve problems more efficiently than governments. But hunger, displacement, and genocide are not market failures; they are moral failures. The idea that philanthropic ventures or ad hoc charity can replace long-term institutional support is naïve at best and reckless at worst.

The collapse of USAID-funded gender-based violence services and medical facilities has left vulnerable refugees, including women and children, without protection, medical care, and essential support, exposing them to heightened risks of exploitation and harm. The dismantling of USAID is not just about numbers; it's about values. America's moral compass is questioned when the world's richest men believe that spending on starving refugees is wasteful. The problem at hand also reflects a broader shift in the U.S.'s role in the world: a retreat from global responsibility and the abdication of moral leadership. The images from Cox's Bazar – a mother unable to feed her child, a clinic forced to turn away a dying patient, a child scavenging for scraps in a camp that once received international support – are not just distant tragedies. They are reflections of a world where indifference has become a policy and where the whims of the rich dictate the fate of the poor.

This retreat from aid will not go unnoticed. Historically, the U.S.'s foreign assistance has not been purely altruistic; it has been a crucial instrument of soft power.

Cutting aid to the Rohingya refugees doesn't just hurt the refugees. It also weakens America's standing in South Asia and beyond. China, which has steadily increased its influence in Bangladesh, will step into the vacuum left by the U.S., leveraging economic aid as a tool for geopolitical leverage. China has already been mediating between Bangladesh and Myanmar for possible repatriation of the Rohingya refugees back home.

### A huge vacuum

The question is, if the U.S. withdraws funding, can other nations pitch in? Unfortunately not. The U.S. alone contributed nearly half of the World Food Programme's budget in previous years, making its sudden withdrawal a near-impossible burden to redistribute among remaining donors. This has resulted in drastic food ration cuts, leaving the Rohingya refugees on the brink of starvation. The European Union has pledged €32.3 million, and Japan and Italy have made commitments, but none of them can fill the gap left by the U.S.

The collapse of USAID sets a dangerous precedent. If the world's richest country can turn its back on one of the most vulnerable groups, what would stop other nations from following suit? The Rohingya crisis is not just a test for those suffering, it is a test for human civilisation. As Mr. Guterres said at Cox's Bazar, "We cannot accept that the international community forgets about the Rohingya". He added that he will "speak loudly" to world leaders that more support is urgently needed.

The question is, will the world watch idly as humanitarianism is eroded? Or will it reclaim the compassionate values that once defined the world's oldest and leading democracy, the nation which poured billions of dollars to revive war-torn Europe through the Marshall Plan in 1948?

## The Rohingya are on the brink of starvation

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## रोहिंग्या भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं

During his four-day visit to Bangladesh in March, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres visited Cox's Bazar, the site of one of the world's most overlooked humanitarian crises.

मार्च में बांग्लादेश की अपनी चार दिवसीय यात्रा के दौरान, संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने कॉक्स बाजार का दौरा किया, जो दुनिया के सबसे उपेक्षित मानवीय संकटों में से एक का स्थल है।

- Over a million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar are teetering on the edge of catastrophe. कॉक्स बाजार में 10 लाख से अधिक रोहिंग्या शरणार्थी आपदा के कगार पर हैं।
- Now, their fragile existence has been made even more precarious by the **Trump administration's abrupt shutdown of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding.**  
अब, ट्रंप प्रशासन द्वारा USAID के वित्त पोषण को अचानक बंद करने से उनका नाजुक जीवन और भी अधिक संकटग्रस्त हो गया है।
- **USAID**, historically the **largest donor to humanitarian causes**, spent about **\$40 billion a year** globally.  
**USAID**, जो ऐतिहासिक रूप से मानवीय कारणों का सबसे बड़ा दाता रहा है, वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिवर्ष लगभग **\$40 अरब** खर्च करता था।
- This has been slashed by the **Department of Government Efficiency**, led by billionaire and senior adviser to Mr. Trump, **Elon Musk.**  
इसे सरकारी दक्षता विभाग द्वारा कम कर दिया गया है, जिसका नेतृत्व अरबपति और श्री ट्रंप के वरिष्ठ सलाहकार **एलन मस्क** कर रहे हैं।
- It is ironic that the **U.S.**, which in **2022** declared the atrocities against the Rohingya a '**genocide**', signalling a commitment to human rights, is today pulling the plug on the very aid that has kept over a **million displaced Rohingya** alive in **Bangladesh**, the **second-largest recipient** of USAID in South Asia.  
यह विडंबना है कि **अमेरिका**, जिसने **2022** में रोहिंग्या के खिलाफ अत्याचारों को '**नरसंहार**' घोषित किया था, आज उसी सहायता को बंद कर रहा है जिसने **बांग्लादेश** में **10 लाख से अधिक विस्थापित रोहिंग्या** को जीवित रखा है, जो दक्षिण एशिया में USAID का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा प्राप्तकर्ता है।

## Catastrophic consequences

### विनाशकारी परिणाम

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• The decision to slash **USAID funding** has sent shockwaves through the **global humanitarian community**.

**USAID वित्त पोषण में कटौती** के इस निर्णय ने वैश्विक मानवीय समुदाय में झटके की लहरें भेजी हैं।

• It has severed a **vital lifeline** and exposed refugees around the world to **starvation, disease, and insecurity**.

इसने एक महत्वपूर्ण जीवनरेखा को काट दिया है और दुनिया भर के शरणार्थियों को **भुखमरी, बीमारी और असुरक्षा** के सामने ला खड़ा किया है।

• For the **Rohingya**, who have already endured **genocide, exile**, and decades of **statelessness**, the consequences of the decision have been **catastrophic**.

**रोहिंग्या**, जिन्होंने पहले ही **नरसंहार, निर्वासन और दशकों की राज्यहीनता** को झेला है, के लिए इस निर्णय के परिणाम **विनाशकारी** रहे हैं।

• The **World Food Programme (WFP)**, which relies largely on **U.S. funding**, has been forced to cut already meagre rations from **\$12.50 per refugee per month** to an unsustainable **\$6**.

**विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम (WFP)**, जो मुख्य रूप से **अमेरिकी वित्त पोषण** पर निर्भर है, को पहले से ही कम राशन को **\$12.50 प्रति शरणार्थी प्रति माह** से घटाकर अस्थिर **\$6** करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा है।

• **Medical aid** has dwindled, with at least **five hospitals shutting down**, and **sanitation programmes collapsing**.

**चिकित्सा सहायता** कम हो गई है, कम से कम **पांच अस्पताल बंद** हो गए हैं, और **स्वच्छता कार्यक्रम** ढह गए हैं।

• This is a **manufactured crisis**, an **ideological experiment** in dismantling global aid, carried out on the backs of the world's most **vulnerable people**.

यह एक **निर्मित संकट** है, वैश्विक सहायता को समाप्त करने का एक **वैचारिक प्रयोग**, जो दुनिया के सबसे **कमजोर लोगों** की पीठ पर किया गया है।

## **A weak moral compass**

### **एक कमजोर नैतिक दिशा निर्देश**

• Mr. Musk's opposition to **foreign aid** is not new.

**विदेशी सहायता** का श्री मस्क का विरोध नया नहीं है।

• He has long dismissed **USAID** as a "**financial black hole**."

उन्होंने लंबे समय से **USAID** को "**वित्तीय काला गड्ढा**" करार दिया है।

• His gleeful participation in its dismantling reveals a deeper **ideological inclination**: a **tech billionaire's fantasy** of replacing structured aid with **privatised, profit-driven solutions**.

इसको खत्म करने में उनकी खुशी से भागीदारी एक गहरी **वैचारिक झुकाव** को दर्शाती है: एक **टेक अरबपति** का सपना कि **संरचित सहायता** को **निजी, लाभ-आधारित समाधानों** से बदला जाए।

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• Mr. Musk, like many **libertarians**, believes that **markets solve problems** more efficiently than governments.

श्री मस्क, कई उदारवादियों की तरह, मानते हैं कि बाज़ार सरकारों की तुलना में अधिक कुशलता से समस्याओं को हल करते हैं।

• But **hunger, displacement, and genocide** are not **market failures**; they are **moral failures**.  
लेकिन **भूखमरी, विस्थापन और नरसंहार बाज़ार की विफलताएं नहीं हैं; वे नैतिक विफलताएं हैं।**

• The idea that **philanthropic ventures** or **ad hoc charity** can replace **long-term institutional support** is **naïve** at best and **reckless** at worst.

यह सोचना कि दान परियोजनाएं या आकस्मिक परोपकार दीर्घकालिक संस्थागत समर्थन को बदल सकते हैं, यह कम से कम भोला और अधिक से अधिक लापरवाह है।

• The collapse of **USAID-funded gender-based violence services** and **medical facilities** has left vulnerable refugees, including **women and children**, without **protection, medical care, and essential support**, exposing them to heightened risks of **exploitation and harm**.

**USAID** द्वारा वित्त पोषित लिंग आधारित हिंसा सेवाओं और चिकित्सा सुविधाओं के ढहने से महिलाओं और बच्चों सहित कमजोर शरणार्थी सुरक्षा, इलाज और मूलभूत सहायता से वंचित हो गए हैं, जिससे शोषण और हानि का खतरा बढ़ गया है।

• The dismantling of **USAID** is not just about **numbers**; it's about **values**.

**USAID** को समाप्त करना केवल आँकड़ों की बात नहीं है; यह मूल्यों की बात है।

• America's **moral compass** is questioned when the **world's richest men** believe that spending on **starving refugees** is **wasteful**.

जब दुनिया के सबसे अमीर लोग मानते हैं कि **भूखे शरणार्थियों** पर खर्च करना बेकार है, तो अमेरिका की नैतिक दिशा पर सवाल उठता है।

• The problem at hand also reflects a broader shift in the **U.S.'s role in the world**: a **retreat from global responsibility** and the **abdication of moral leadership**.

यह समस्या दुनिया में अमेरिका की भूमिका में एक व्यापक बदलाव को भी दर्शाती है: वैश्विक जिम्मेदारी से पीछे हटना और नैतिक नेतृत्व का परित्याग।

• The images from **Cox's Bazar** — a **mother unable to feed her child**, a **clinic forced to turn away a dying patient**, a **child scavenging for scraps** in a camp that once received international support — are not just distant **tragedies**.

कॉक्स बाजार से आई तस्वीरें — एक मां जो अपने बच्चे को खाना नहीं खिला पा रही है, एक क्लिनिक जो मरते मरीज को लौटाने पर मजबूर है, एक बच्चा जो शिविर में खाना खोज रहा है, जो कभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय समर्थन पाता था — ये केवल दूर की त्रासदियां नहीं हैं।

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• They are reflections of a world where **indifference has become policy** and where **the whims of the rich** dictate the **fate of the poor**.

वे उस दुनिया का प्रतिबिंब हैं जहां उदासीनता नीति बन गई है और जहां अमीरों की मनमानी गरीबों की किस्मत तय करती है।

• This **retreat from aid** will not go unnoticed.

इस सहायता से पीछे हटना नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जाएगा।

• Historically, the **U.S.'s foreign assistance** has not been purely **altruistic**; it has been a crucial instrument of **soft power**.

ऐतिहासिक रूप से, **अमेरिका की विदेशी सहायता** केवल **परोपकारी** नहीं रही है; यह **सॉफ्ट पावर** का एक महत्वपूर्ण उपकरण रही है।

• **Cutting aid to the Rohingya refugees** doesn't just hurt the refugees.

**रोहिंग्या शरणार्थियों के लिए सहायता में कटौती** केवल शरणार्थियों को ही नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाती।

• It also weakens **America's standing in South Asia and beyond**.

यह **दक्षिण एशिया और उससे आगे में अमेरिका की स्थिति** को भी कमजोर करती है।

• **China**, which has steadily increased its influence in **Bangladesh**, will step into the **vacuum left by the U.S.**, leveraging **economic aid** as a tool for **geopolitical leverage**.

**चीन**, जिसने **बांग्लादेश** में लगातार अपना प्रभाव बढ़ाया है, **अमेरिका द्वारा छोड़े गए खाली स्थान** को भर देगा और **आर्थिक सहायता को भौगोलिक प्रभाव** के साधन के रूप में प्रयोग करेगा।

• **China** has already been mediating between **Bangladesh and Myanmar** for possible **repatriation of the Rohingya refugees** back home.

**चीन** पहले से ही **बांग्लादेश और म्यांमार** के बीच **रोहिंग्या शरणार्थियों की वापसी** के लिए मध्यस्थता कर रहा है।

## A huge vacuum

### एक बड़ा शून्य

• The question is, if the **U.S. withdraws funding**, can other nations pitch in?

सवाल यह है कि अगर **अमेरिका फंडिंग वापस लेता है**, तो क्या अन्य देश मदद कर सकते हैं?

• Unfortunately not. The **U.S. alone** contributed nearly **half of the World Food Programme's budget** in previous years.

**दुर्भाग्यवश नहीं।** केवल **अमेरिका** ने पिछले वर्षों में **विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम के बजट का लगभग आधा हिस्सा** योगदान किया था।

• Its sudden withdrawal is a **near-impossible burden** to redistribute among remaining donors.

इसका अचानक हटना **बचे हुए दाताओं के बीच फिर से बांटना लगभग असंभव बोझ** है।

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• This has resulted in **drastic food ration cuts**, leaving the **Rohingya refugees** on the brink of starvation.

इससे भोजन राशन में भारी कटौती हुई है, जिससे रोहिंग्या शरणार्थी भुखमरी की कगार पर आ गए हैं।

• The **European Union** has pledged **€32.3 million**, and **Japan and Italy** have made commitments, but none of them can **fill the gap left by the U.S.**

यूरोपीय संघ ने **€32.3 मिलियन** देने का वादा किया है, और **जापान और इटली** ने भी प्रतिबद्धताएं दी हैं, लेकिन कोई भी **अमेरिका द्वारा छोड़ा गया अंतर** नहीं भर सकता।

• The **collapse of USAID** sets a **dangerous precedent.**

**USAID का ढहना एक खतरनाक मिसाल** पेश करता है।

• If the **world's richest country** can turn its back on one of the **most vulnerable groups**, what would stop other nations from doing the same?

अगर **दुनिया का सबसे अमीर देश सबसे कमजोर समूहों में से एक** से मुंह मोड़ सकता है, तो अन्य देशों को ऐसा करने से क्या रोकेगा?

• The **Rohingya crisis** is not just a test for those suffering, it is a **test for human civilisation.**  
**रोहिंग्या संकट** केवल पीड़ितों की परीक्षा नहीं है, यह **मानव सभ्यता की परीक्षा** है।

• As Mr. **Guterres** said at **Cox's Bazar**, "We cannot accept that the **\*\*international community** forgets about the Rohingya."

जैसा कि **गुटेरेस** ने **कॉक्स बाजार** में कहा, "हम यह स्वीकार नहीं कर सकते कि **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय रोहिंग्या को भूल जाए।**"

• He added that he will "**speak loudly**" to world leaders that **more support** is **urgently needed.**  
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि वह **विश्व नेताओं से "जोर से बोलेंगे"** कि **और समर्थन की तत्काल आवश्यकता** है।

• The question is, will the world watch idly as **humanitarianism is eroded?**

सवाल यह है कि क्या दुनिया **मानवतावाद के क्षरण** को चुपचाप देखती रहेगी?

• Or will it **reclaim the compassionate values** that once defined the **world's oldest and leading democracy**, the nation which poured **billions of dollars** to revive **war-torn Europe** through the **Marshall Plan in 1948?**

या क्या यह दुनिया की **सबसे पुरानी और अग्रणी लोकतंत्र** द्वारा परिभाषित **दयालु मूल्यों** को पुनः प्राप्त करेगी, वह देश जिसने **1948 के मार्शल प्लान** के माध्यम से **युद्धग्रस्त यूरोप** को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए **अरबों डॉलर** खर्च किए थे?



# Democracy and federalism in the delimitation debate

The delimitation debate has to take into account the relative weights of individual electors and individual States

**GS Paper II: Polity**

**DATA POINT**

**Varghese K. George**  
**Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

In the ongoing debate on delimitation, a conflict between a principle of democracy and one of federalism has become apparent. 'One person, one vote, one value' is a principle of India's electoral system. What this should mean in practice, at a minimum, is that all Lok Sabha constituencies should have roughly the same number of electors. The Indian republic is constituted as a "union of States". States are the constituent units, and they have their individual identity and power. The delimitation debate, therefore, has to take into account the relative weights of individual electors and individual States. It has to be about federal democracy.

### A two-step process

Article 81(2) of the Constitution takes into account federalism and democracy by providing for apportionment of Lok Sabha seats in a two-step process. The first step is to divide them among the States. It is in the second step that they are divided into constituencies within the States. Article 81(2) (a) provides allotment to each State in "such manner that the ratio between that number and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States." In Article 81(2) (b), it is provided that "each State shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it is, so far as practicable, the same throughout the State." The qualifier "so far as practicable" in both clauses allows for deviations, and delimitation acts go more into specifics.

The 84th amendment to the Constitution in 2001 and the 87th amendment in 2003 combined (when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was Prime Minister) separated this

two-step process in more definitive terms, by basing them on two separate population counts. The apportionment among States was linked to the 1971 Census; and the apportionment within States was based on the 2001 Census. In the current text of the Constitution, Clause 3 of Article 81 defines the reference to "population" in Clause 2 in two ways, as follows: "for the purposes of sub-clause (a) of clause (2) and the proviso to that clause, as a reference to the 1971 Census" and "for the purposes of sub-clause (b) of clause (2) as a reference to the 2001 Census." The Delimitation Commission appointed in 2002 followed this criteria and its recommendations were implemented in 2008 when Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister. The next inter-State redistribution of constituencies was barred until "the first Census taken after the year 2026 has been published," by the 84th amendment.

### Distribution of representation

Now, compare this distribution of representation to the distribution of land wealth in a joint family which has several constituent familial units. India is akin to a joint family and States, its constituent familial units. Each unit was given its share of land according to the size of its membership – the more the members, the higher the share. Each unit further divided their share among their individual members. Over time, some units added more members, and this caused a decline in the share for their individual members; some others ended up with fewer members, resulting in an increase in per person holding. That is what has happened to the value of votes across States. In 1967, every member in the Lok Sabha represented roughly 4.2 lakh-5.3 lakh electors across all major States. But in 2024, one MP from Kerala represented around 13.9 lakh electors, while in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, it was 19.3 lakh each (all post bifurcation), and in Rajasthan, 21.4 lakh. This means vote values of elec-

tors across States are not equal any more. To understand this better, let's pick a middle point, called the national median, which is the population per MP of India. We assign this median a vote value of 1. Then, we calculate the value of vote in each State by comparing it to this median. For example, if a State's MP represents twice as many people as the median, its vote value is 0.5 – because one MP is doing the job of two. If another State's MP represents half as many people, its vote value is 2 – meaning its people get twice the representation compared to the average.

Chart 1 and 2 illustrate the vote value of 18 major States in 1967 and 2024. In 1967, the variation in vote value across these States was relatively modest. By 2024, the gap from the median had widened significantly, with some States seeing a sharp rise in vote value and others a noticeable decline. Kerala's vote value was 30% higher than the national median, followed by Tamil Nadu (13%), Odisha (12%), and Punjab (9%). On the other hand, Rajasthan's vote value was 16% lower than the median, and Uttar Pradesh's and Bihar's was 7% each below the median. When the relative size of the population within each unit increases, the value of each vote declines – as it happens with the landholding that gets divided, and vice-versa.

If Lok Sabha constituencies are delimited based on current population, and regardless of State boundaries – i.e., when all votes across India are given the same value – the apportionment between States will undergo major changes. For instance, Rajasthan, which today has 4.6% of Lok Sabha members, could get 5.5%, while Kerala, which has 3.7%, will see its share shrink to 2.8% (Chart 3).

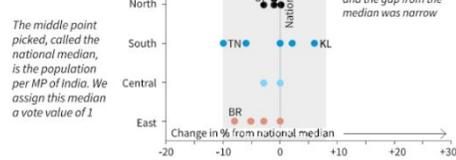
This data captures this conflict of two principles in India's federal democracy – the relative representation of States, and individual voters.

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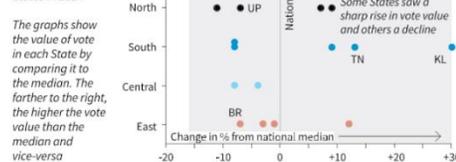
## Mind the gaps

Data for the tables were sourced from the Election Commission of India and Ashoka Universities' Lok Dhaba

**Chart 1:** The chart illustrates the vote value of 18 major States in 1967



**Chart 2:** The chart illustrates the vote value of 18 major States in 2024



**Chart 3:** Chart shows the State-wise % share of seats in the Lok Sabha presently and the share if LS constituencies are delimited based on current population



## Democracy and federalism in the delimitation debate

### सीमांकन बहस में लोकतंत्र और संघवाद

In the ongoing debate on delimitation, a conflict between a principle of democracy and one of federalism has become apparent.

सीमांकन पर चल रही बहस में लोकतंत्र और संघवाद के सिद्धांतों के बीच टकराव स्पष्ट हो गया है।



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- 'One person, one vote, one value' is a principle of India's electoral system.  
'एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट, एक मूल्य' भारत की निर्वाचन प्रणाली का एक सिद्धांत है।
- What this should mean in practice, at a minimum, is that all **Lok Sabha constituencies** should have roughly the same number of **electors**.  
इसका व्यावहारिक अर्थ यह है कि सभी **लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों** में लगभग समान संख्या में **मतदाता** होने चाहिए।
- The Indian republic is constituted as a "**union of States**".  
भारतीय गणराज्य को "**राज्यों का संघ**" के रूप में गठित किया गया है।
- The delimitation debate, therefore, has to take into account the relative weights of individual **electors** and individual **States**.  
इसलिए सीमांकन की बहस में व्यक्तिगत **मतदाताओं** और **राज्यों** के सापेक्ष महत्व को ध्यान में रखना होगा।
- It has to be about **federal democracy**.  
यह बहस **संघीय लोकतंत्र** के बारे में होनी चाहिए।

## A two-step process

### दो चरणों की प्रक्रिया

- **Article 81(2)** of the Constitution provides for apportionment of **Lok Sabha seats** in a two-step process.  
संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 81(2)** **लोकसभा सीटों** के आवंटन की दो चरणों की प्रक्रिया को निर्धारित करता है।
- First, they are divided among **States**; second, within each State into **constituencies**.  
पहले इन्हें **राज्यों** में बाँटा जाता है; फिर प्रत्येक राज्य के भीतर **निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों** में।
- Article 81(2)(a) ensures proportionality in seat allotment among States based on **population**.  
अनुच्छेद 81(2)(a) **जनसंख्या** के आधार पर राज्यों में सीट आवंटन में अनुपात सुनिश्चित करता है।
- Article 81(2)(b) mandates uniformity in **population-to-seat ratio** within States.  
अनुच्छेद 81(2)(b) राज्यों के भीतर **जनसंख्या-प्रति-सीट अनुपात** में समानता को अनिवार्य बनाता है।
- The phrase "**so far as practicable**" allows for **deviations** in both clauses.  
"जहाँ तक संभव हो" वाक्यांश दोनों धाराओं में **विचलन** की अनुमति देता है।
- **84th (2001)** and **87th (2003)** Constitutional Amendments further clarified the process by using **1971 Census** for State allotment and **2001 Census** for intra-State division.  
**84वें (2001)** और **87वें (2003)** संवैधानिक संशोधनों ने इस प्रक्रिया को और स्पष्ट किया, जिसमें **राज्य आवंटन** के लिए **1971 की जनगणना** और राज्यों के भीतर विभाजन के लिए **2001 की जनगणना** को आधार बनाया गया।



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• **Delimitation Commission (2002)** applied these rules and the recommendations were implemented in **2008**.

सीमांकन आयोग (2002) ने इन नियमों को लागू किया और सिफारिशें 2008 में लागू की गईं।

• Inter-State redistribution of constituencies has been barred until the **first Census after 2026** is published.

राज्यों के बीच निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों का पुनर्वितरण 2026 के बाद की पहली जनगणना तक रोका गया है।

## Distribution of representation

### प्रतिनिधित्व का वितरण

• This representation can be compared to the distribution of **land wealth** in a joint family. यह प्रतिनिधित्व **संयुक्त परिवार** में **भूमि संपत्ति** के वितरण से तुलना की जा सकती है।

• States with increasing population had to divide their share more, lowering the **vote value** of individuals.

जिन राज्यों की जनसंख्या बढ़ी, उन्हें अपना हिस्सा अधिक विभाजित करना पड़ा, जिससे व्यक्तियों का **वोट मूल्य** घट गया।

• In **1967**, each MP represented **4.2 lakh–5.3 lakh** electors across major States.

1967 में प्रत्येक सांसद ने प्रमुख राज्यों में **4.2 लाख–5.3 लाख** मतदाताओं का प्रतिनिधित्व किया।

• By **2024**, an MP from **Kerala** represented **13.9 lakh** electors, while **Uttar Pradesh** and **Bihar** had **19.3 lakh** each, and **Rajasthan** had **21.4 lakh**.

2024 तक, केरल में एक सांसद **13.9 लाख**, उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में **19.3 लाख**, और राजस्थान में **21.4 लाख** मतदाताओं का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहा था।

• This means **vote values** of electors across States are not equal anymore.

इसका अर्थ है कि विभिन्न राज्यों में **मतदाताओं के वोट का मूल्य** अब समान नहीं रहा।

• The **national median** (population per MP) is used to assign a **vote value** of 1.

**राष्ट्रीय माध्यिका** (प्रति सांसद जनसंख्या) को **1 वोट मूल्य** सौंपा गया है।

• If a State's MP represents twice as many people as the median, its vote value is **0.5**; if half, then it is **2**.

अगर किसी राज्य का सांसद माध्यिका से दोगुनी आबादी का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, तो उसका **वोट मूल्य 0.5** होता है; अगर आधा, तो **2** होता है।

• In **1967**, the vote value variation was modest; in **2024**, the gap had widened.

1967 में वोट मूल्य का अंतर कम था; 2024 में यह अंतर बहुत बढ़ गया है।



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• **Kerala's** vote value was **30% higher**, **Tamil Nadu 13%**, **Odisha 12%**, and **Punjab 9%** higher than the median.

केरल का वोट मूल्य **30% अधिक**, तमिलनाडु **13%**, ओडिशा **12%**, और पंजाब **9%** माध्यिका से अधिक था।

• **Rajasthan's** vote value was **16% lower**, while **Uttar Pradesh** and **Bihar** were each **7% below** the median.

राजस्थान का वोट मूल्य **16% कम**, जबकि उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार का **7% कम** था।

• When population within a unit increases, **vote value** declines — like landholding per person. जब किसी इकाई की जनसंख्या बढ़ती है, तो **वोट मूल्य** घटता है — जैसे प्रति व्यक्ति भूमि धारणा घटती है।

• If **delimitation** is done based on **current population**, major **changes** in State-wise **seat share** will occur.

अगर सीमांकन **वर्तमान जनसंख्या** पर आधारित होता है, तो राज्यों के बीच सीटों के **बंटवारे में बड़ा बदलाव** होगा।

• For instance, **Rajasthan** could get **5.5%** of Lok Sabha seats (currently 4.6%), while **Kerala's** share may drop to **2.8%** (currently 3.7%).

उदाहरण के लिए, **राजस्थान** को **5.5%** लोकसभा सीटें मिल सकती हैं (वर्तमान में 4.6%), जबकि **केरल** की हिस्सेदारी घटकर **2.8%** हो सकती है (वर्तमान में 3.7%)।

• This data captures the **conflict** of two principles in **India's federal democracy** — the relative representation of **States** and **individual voters**.

यह डेटा **भारत के संघीय लोकतंत्र** में दो सिद्धांतों — **राज्यों के सापेक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व** और **व्यक्तिगत मतदाताओं के** — के बीच **टकराव** को दर्शाता है।



# India better off than others in tariff row: RBI Governor

Considering India's low volume exports to the U.S. and a comparatively smaller trade surplus, the adverse impact on India will be far less in intensity compared with most countries, says Malhotra

## GS Paper II: Impact of US Tariff

Aratendu Misra

MUMBAI

**T**he tariff war unleashed by U.S. President Donald Trump and its global implications have forced the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy body to cut growth rate by 20 basis points (100 basis point is 1%) for FY25, as resultant economic uncertainties underpinned the decision.

"The growth projection for the current year has been marked down by 20 basis points relative to our earlier assessment of 6.7% in the February policy. This downward revision essentially reflects the impact of global trade and policy uncertainties," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in his monetary policy statement on Wednesday.

But considering India's low volume exports to the U.S. and comparatively less trade surplus, the adverse impact on India would be

## Small mercies

The impact of U.S. tariffs on India vis-à-vis some of the other countries would be much less, says RBI Governor, elaborating why:



- India's overall exports are about 12% of GDP, it is about 2% for the U.S.
- For China it is about 19%, Germany 37% exports overall and for EU it is 30% plus
- Several smaller countries have about 80%, hence the competitive advantage

far less in intensity compared with most countries, he said at a press meet post the MPC meeting.

"The impact would be different for other countries depending on the situation that they are in. For India, we have given our assessment as you can see, the growth rate we have reduced by 20 basis points this year, primarily arising out of the uncertainties," Mr. Malhotra said replying to *The Hindu*.

"And on the inflation front, we have said it can

move actually both ways because of the demand that is going to shrink as a result of the trade tariff friction. It may help the inflation front. So all in all, more than inflation, we are concerned about its impact on growth," he said.

Mr. Malhotra said the impact of these tariffs on India compared with other countries would be much less. "Our overall exports are about 12% of GDP, and it is about 2% for USA. You compare it with some other countries... even for Chi-

na it is about 19%, Germany 37% exports overall and even EU is 30% plus. And several smaller countries have about 80% (of their GDP is exports). So to that extent we are in a better place than some of the other countries," he highlighted.

"And so we have, in some ways a competitive advantage vis-à-vis some of these countries insofar as the USA is concerned."

About the likely impact of China's possible move to devalue its own currency, on the Indian rupee, he said the rupee would find its own level and in case of excessive volatility, the RBI would intervene.

"Our currency is quite stable. We have sufficient reserves, almost \$700 billion, and our deficits are also again very sustainable for this year and next year. I really don't think, we are under any kind of a stress or stressful position," he emphasised.

## India better off than others in tariff row: RBI Governor

**आरबीआई गवर्नर के अनुसार टैरिफ विवाद में भारत अन्य देशों से बेहतर स्थिति में**

The tariff war unleashed by **U.S. President Donald Trump** and its global implications have forced the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy body to cut growth rate by **20 basis points** for **FY25**, as resultant economic uncertainties underpinned the decision.



अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प द्वारा शुरू किए गए टैरिफ युद्ध और इसके वैश्विक प्रभावों ने भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक की मौद्रिक नीति समिति को वित्त वर्ष 2025 के लिए विकास दर में 20 बेसिस पॉइंट की कटौती करने पर मजबूर कर दिया, क्योंकि इसके चलते उत्पन्न आर्थिक अनिश्चितताओं ने इस निर्णय को प्रभावित किया।

“The growth projection for the current year has been marked down by **20 basis points** relative to our earlier assessment of **6.7%** in the **February policy**. This downward revision essentially reflects the impact of global trade and policy uncertainties,” RBI Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** said in his monetary policy statement on **Wednesday**.

आरबीआई गवर्नर **संजय मल्होत्रा** ने **बुधवार** को मौद्रिक नीति बयान में कहा, “वर्तमान वर्ष के लिए विकास अनुमान को **फरवरी नीति** के **6.7%** के पिछले आकलन की तुलना में **20 बेसिस पॉइंट** कम किया गया है। यह कटौती मुख्य रूप से वैश्विक व्यापार और नीतिगत अनिश्चितताओं के प्रभाव को दर्शाती है।”

But considering India's **low volume exports** to the **U.S.** and comparatively less **trade surplus**, the adverse impact on India would be far less in intensity compared with most countries, he said at a press meet post the MPC meeting.

लेकिन भारत के **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को कम निर्यात** और तुलनात्मक रूप से कम **व्यापार अधिशेष** को देखते हुए, यह प्रभाव अन्य देशों की तुलना में भारत पर काफी कम होगा, उन्होंने एमपीसी बैठक के बाद प्रेस मीट में कहा।

“The impact would be different for other countries depending on the situation that they are in. For India, we have given our assessment as you can see, the growth rate we have reduced by **20 basis points** this year, primarily arising out of the uncertainties,” Mr. Malhotra said replying to **The Hindu**.

मल्होत्रा ने **द हिंदू** को जवाब देते हुए कहा, “प्रभाव अन्य देशों के लिए अलग-अलग होगा, जो उनकी स्थिति पर निर्भर करता है। भारत के लिए हमने अपना आकलन दिया है, जैसा कि आप देख सकते हैं, हमने इस वर्ष विकास दर में **20 आधार अंक** की कटौती की है, जो मुख्य रूप से अनिश्चितताओं के कारण है।”

“And on the **inflation front**, we have said it can move actually both ways because of the demand that is going to shrink as a result of the **trade tariff friction**. It may help the inflation front. So all in all, more than inflation, we are concerned about its impact on growth,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “और **मुद्रास्फीति के मोर्चे** पर, हमने कहा है कि यह दोनों ओर जा सकती है क्योंकि **टैरिफ विवाद** के कारण मांग में कमी आएगी। यह मुद्रास्फीति को कम करने में मदद कर सकती है। कुल मिलाकर, मुद्रास्फीति से अधिक हम इसके **विकास** पर प्रभाव को लेकर चिंतित हैं।”

Mr. Malhotra said the impact of these tariffs on India compared with other countries would be much less. “Our **overall exports** are about **12% of GDP**, and it is about **2% for USA**. You compare it with some other countries... even for **China** it is about **19%**, **Germany 37% exports overall**, and even **EU** is **30%+**. And several smaller countries have about **80% (of their GDP is exports)**. So to that extent we are in a better place than some of the other countries.” he highlighted.

मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि भारत पर इन **टैरिफ्स** का प्रभाव अन्य देशों की तुलना में बहुत कम होगा। “हमारा **कुल निर्यात**



**GDP का लगभग 12% है, जबकि अमेरिका के लिए यह लगभग 2% है। आप इसे अन्य देशों से तुलना करें... यहां तक कि चीन के लिए यह 19%, जर्मनी के लिए 37%, और यूरोपीय संघ के लिए 30% से अधिक है। कई छोटे देशों के लिए यह 80% तक है। इस लिहाज से भारत की स्थिति कुछ अन्य देशों से बेहतर है।”**

“And so we have, in some ways a **competitive advantage** vis-à-vis some of these countries insofar as the **USA** is concerned.”

“और इस तरह से, हमारे पास कुछ हद तक **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के संदर्भ में इन देशों की तुलना में **प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ** है।”

About the likely impact of **China's possible move to devalue its own currency**, on the **Indian rupee**, he said the rupee would find its own level and in case of **excessive volatility**, the **RBI** would intervene.

**चीन द्वारा अपनी मुद्रा को अवमूल्यित करने की संभावित योजना के भारतीय रुपये पर प्रभाव के बारे में उन्होंने कहा कि रुपया अपनी स्वाभाविक स्थिति प्राप्त कर लेगा और यदि अत्यधिक अस्थिरता होती है, तो आरबीआई हस्तक्षेप करेगा।**

“Our currency is quite stable. We have sufficient reserves, almost **\$700 billion**, and our deficits are also again very sustainable for this year and next year. I really don't think, we are under any kind of a stress or stressful position,” he emphasised.

उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा, “हमारी मुद्रा काफी **स्थिर** है। हमारे पास लगभग **700 अरब डॉलर** का पर्याप्त विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार है, और हमारे घाटे भी इस साल और अगले साल के लिए टिकाऊ हैं। मुझे नहीं लगता कि हम किसी भी तरह के तनावपूर्ण स्थिति में हैं।”

## The IMF reaches a deal with Argentina on a \$20 billion bailout

**GS Paper II: International Organizations**

**Associated Press**  
BUENOS AIRES

The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday said it has reached a preliminary agreement with Argentina on a \$20 billion bailout, providing a welcome reprieve to President Javier Milei as he seeks to overturn the country's old economic order.

As a staff-level agreement, the rescue package still requires final approval from the IMF's executive board. The board will convene in the coming days, the IMF statement said.

The fund's long-awaited announcement offered a lifeline to President Milei, who has cut inflation and stabilized Argentina's troubled economy with a free-market austerity agenda.

His policies have reversed the reckless borrowing of left-wing populist governments that had brought Argentina infamy for defaulting on its debts. The country has received more IMF bailouts than any other.

It came at a critical moment for South America's second-biggest economy. Pressure had been mounting on Argentina's rapidly depleting foreign exchange reserves as the government tightened rules on money-printing and burned through its scarce dollars to prop up the wobbly Argentine peso.

Fears grew that if the government failed to secure an IMF loan, hard-won austerity measures would veer off-track and leave Argentina, once again, unable to



**Life line:** The fresh cash gives Mr. Milei a serious shot at easing Argentina's strict forex controls. REUTERS

service its huge debts or pay its import bills.

The fresh cash gives Mr. Milei a serious shot at easing Argentina's strict foreign exchange controls,

which could help convince markets of his program's sustainability. For the past six years, the capital restrictions have dissuaded investment, preventing

companies from sending profits abroad and ensuring the central bank's careful management of the peso, which is pegged to the dollar.

Racking up 22 IMF loans since 1958, Argentina owes the IMF more than \$40 billion. Most IMF funds have been used to repay the IMF itself, giving the organization a fraught reputation among Argentines. Many blame the lender for the country's historic economic implosion and debt default in 2001.

The IMF was wary of striking yet another deal with its largest debtor. But over the past 16 months, fund officials have praised Mr. Milei's austerity—a diet harsher than even the fund's typical prescription.

A former TV personality and self-proclaimed “anarcho-capitalist,” Mr. Milei came to power on a vow to shrink Argentina's bloated bureaucracy, kill spiraling inflation, open the econo-

my to international markets and woo foreign investors after years of isolation.

### Shock therapy

Unlike Argentine politicians in years past who sought to avoid enraging the masses with brutal austerity, Mr. Milei has taken his chainsaw to the state, firing tens of thousands of state employees, dissolving or downgrading a dozen ministries, gutting the education sector, cutting inflation adjustments for pensions, freezing public works projects, lifting price controls and slashing subsidies.

Critics note that the poor have paid the highest price for Argentina's rosy macroeconomic indicators. Retirees have been protesting weekly against

low pensions, with the decrease in payments accounting for the largest share of Mr. Milei's budget cuts. Major labour unions announced a 36-hour general strike starting Wednesday in solidarity.

Still, Mr. Milei has maintained solid approval ratings, a surprise that analysts attribute to his success in driving down inflation, which dropped to 118% from 211% annually during his first year in office.

“The agreement builds on the authorities' impressive early progress in stabilizing the economy, underpinned by a strong fiscal anchor, that is delivering rapid disinflation,” the IMF said in announcing the agreement under a 48-month arrangement.

**The IMF reaches a deal with Argentina on a \$20 billion bailout**  
**आईएमएफ ने अर्जेटीना के साथ \$20 बिलियन बेलआउट पर समझौता किया**



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The International Monetary Fund on **Tuesday** said it has reached a **preliminary agreement** with **Argentina** on a **\$20 billion bailout**, providing a welcome reprieve to President **Javier Milei** as he seeks to overturn the country's old economic order.

**मंगलवार** को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) ने कहा कि उसने **अर्जेटीना** के साथ **\$20 बिलियन बेलआउट** पर **प्रारंभिक समझौता** किया है, जो राष्ट्रपति **जैवियर मिलेई** को देश की पुरानी आर्थिक व्यवस्था बदलने की कोशिशों में राहत देता है।

As a **staff-level agreement**, the rescue package still requires **final approval** from the IMF's **executive board**.

चूंकि यह एक **स्टाफ-लेवल समझौता** है, इसलिए इस राहत पैकेज को अभी भी IMF के **कार्यकारी बोर्ड** की अंतिम **मंजूरी** की आवश्यकता है।

The board will convene **in the coming days**, the IMF statement said.

आईएमएफ के बयान के अनुसार, बोर्ड **आगामी दिनों** में बैठक करेगा।

The fund's long-awaited announcement offered a **lifeline** to President Milei, who has **cut inflation** and **stabilized Argentina's troubled economy** with a **free-market austerity agenda**.

आईएमएफ की लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित घोषणा ने राष्ट्रपति मिलेई को **संजीवनी** दी है, जिन्होंने **मुक्त बाज़ार सख्ती नीति** के जरिए **मुद्रास्फीति में कटौती** की और **अर्जेटीना की डगमगाती अर्थव्यवस्था को स्थिर** किया।

His policies have reversed the **reckless borrowing** of **left-wing populist governments** that had brought Argentina infamy for **defaulting on its debts**.

उनकी नीतियों ने **वामपंथी लोकलुभावन सरकारों** की **लापरवाह उधारी** को पलट दिया, जिसने अर्जेटीना को **ऋण चूक** के लिए बदनाम कर दिया था।

The country has received **more IMF bailouts** than **any other**.

अर्जेटीना को अब तक **किसी भी देश से अधिक IMF बेलआउट** प्राप्त हुए हैं।

It came at a **critical moment** for **South America's second-biggest economy**.

यह निर्णय **दक्षिण अमेरिका की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था** के लिए **संकटपूर्ण समय** में आया है।

Pressure had been mounting on Argentina's **rapidly depleting foreign exchange reserves** as the government tightened **rules on money-printing** and burned through its **scarce dollars** to prop up the **wobbly Argentine peso**.

सरकार द्वारा **मुद्रण नियमों को कड़ा** करने और **अर्जेटीना पेसो** को संभालने के लिए अपने **गिने-चुने डॉलर खर्च** करने के कारण अर्जेटीना के **तेजी से घटते विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार** पर दबाव बढ़ रहा था।

Fears grew that if the government failed to secure an **IMF loan**, hard-won **austerity measures** would veer off-track and leave Argentina unable to **service its huge debts** or **pay its import bills**.

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यह डर बढ़ रहा था कि अगर सरकार को IMF ऋण नहीं मिला तो कठिन सखती उपाय पटरी से उतर जाएंगे और अर्जेंटीना अपने बड़े ऋणों या आयात बिलों का भुगतान नहीं कर पाएगा।

The **fresh cash** gives Mr. Milei a serious shot at easing Argentina's **strict foreign exchange controls**, which could help convince markets of his program's **sustainability**.

यह नया फंड श्री मिलेई को अर्जेंटीना के कड़े विदेशी मुद्रा नियंत्रणों को कम करने का अवसर देता है, जिससे बाजारों को उनकी योजना की टिकाऊपन पर विश्वास हो सकता है।

For the past **six years**, the **capital restrictions** have dissuaded investment, preventing companies from sending profits abroad and ensuring the central bank's **careful management of the peso**, which is **pegged to the dollar**.

पिछले छह वर्षों से पूंजी नियंत्रण ने निवेश को हतोत्साहित किया है, जिससे कंपनियां मुनाफा विदेश नहीं भेज पाईं और केंद्रीय बैंक को पेसो को डॉलर से जोड़े रखने में सतर्क प्रबंधन करना पड़ा।

Racking up **22 IMF loans since 1958**, Argentina owes the IMF **more than \$40 billion**.

1958 से अर्जेंटीना ने 22 IMF ऋण लिए हैं और अब \$40 बिलियन से अधिक का बकाया है।

Most IMF funds have been used to **repay the IMF itself**, giving the organization a **fraught reputation** among Argentines.

अधिकांश IMF फंड्स को IMF को ही चुकाने में इस्तेमाल किया गया है, जिससे अर्जेंटीना में IMF की खराब छवि बनी है।

Many blame the lender for the country's **historic economic implosion** and **debt default in 2001**.

कई लोग 2001 की ऐतिहासिक आर्थिक गिरावट और ऋण चूक के लिए IMF को दोषी मानते हैं।

The IMF was wary of striking **yet another deal** with its **largest debtor**.

IMF अपने सबसे बड़े ऋणदाता के साथ एक और समझौता करने को लेकर आशंकित था।

But over the past **16 months**, fund officials have praised Mr. Milei's **austerity**—a diet harsher than even the fund's **typical prescription**.

लेकिन पिछले 16 महीनों में, IMF अधिकारियों ने श्री मिलेई की सखती नीति की सराहना की है, जो IMF की सामान्य नीति से भी कड़ी रही है।

A former **TV personality** and self-proclaimed "**anarcho-capitalist**", Mr. Milei came to power on a vow to shrink Argentina's **bloated bureaucracy**, kill **spiraling inflation**, open the economy to **international markets**, and woo **foreign investors** after years of isolation.

पूर्व टीवी व्यक्तित्व और स्वयंभू "अराजकतावादी पूंजीवादी" श्री मिलेई ने अर्जेंटीना की फैली हुई नौकरशाही को कम करने, बढ़ती महंगाई को समाप्त करने, अर्थव्यवस्था को अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों के लिए खोलने और वर्षों की अलगाव के बाद विदेशी निवेशकों को आकर्षित करने के वादे पर सत्ता में आए।

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## Shock therapy

### झटका उपचार नीति

Unlike Argentine politicians in years past who sought to avoid enraging the masses with **brutal austerity**, Mr. Milei has taken his **chainsaw to the state**, firing **tens of thousands of state employees**, dissolving or **downgrading a dozen ministries**, gutting the **education sector**, cutting **inflation adjustments for pensions**, **freezing public works**, lifting **price controls**, and **slashing subsidies**.

पिछले वर्षों के अर्जेन्टीनी राजनेताओं के विपरीत जो कड़ी सख्ती से जनता को नाराज़ करने से बचते थे, श्री मिलेई ने राज्य में कटौती की नीति अपनाई—हज़ारों सरकारी कर्मचारियों की छंटनी, दर्जनों मंत्रालयों को बंद या घटाना, शिक्षा क्षेत्र में कटौती, पेंशन में महंगाई भत्ता कम करना, सार्वजनिक कार्यों को रोकना, कीमत नियंत्रण हटाना, और सब्सिडी में भारी कटौती।

Critics note that the **poor have paid the highest price** for Argentina's **rosy macroeconomic indicators**.

आलोचकों का कहना है कि अर्जेन्टीना के आकर्षक आर्थिक आँकड़ों की कीमत गरीबों ने सबसे अधिक चुकाई है।

**Retirees** have been protesting **weekly** against **low pensions**, with the **decrease in payments** accounting for the **largest share** of Mr. Milei's budget cuts.

पेंशनभोगी साप्ताहिक प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं क्योंकि पेंशन में कटौती श्री मिलेई की बजट कटौती का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा रही है।

**Major labour unions** announced a **36-hour general strike** starting **Wednesday** in solidarity.

प्रमुख श्रमिक संघों ने एकजुटता में बुधवार से 36 घंटे की आम हड़ताल की घोषणा की है।

Still, Mr. Milei has maintained **solid approval ratings**, a surprise that analysts attribute to his success in **driving down inflation**, which dropped to **118% from 211%** annually during his **first year in office**.

फिर भी, श्री मिलेई की लोकप्रियता दर मजबूत बनी हुई है, जिसे विश्लेषक उनके द्वारा मुद्रास्फीति को घटाकर 211% से 118% करने की पहले वर्ष की सफलता मानते हैं।

"The agreement builds on the authorities' **impressive early progress** in stabilizing the economy, underpinned by a **strong fiscal anchor**, that is delivering **rapid disinflation**," the IMF said in announcing the agreement under a **48-month arrangement**.

आईएमएफ ने 48 महीने की योजना के तहत समझौते की घोषणा करते हुए कहा कि "यह समझौता अधिकारियों की आर्थिक स्थिरीकरण में शुरुआती प्रभावशाली प्रगति और मजबूत वित्तीय आधार पर आधारित है, जिससे तेज़ी से मुद्रास्फीति में कमी आ रही है।"



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'आधार कानून को व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम के अनुरूप संशोधित करें'

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विद्युत आवेशित पानी से छींटा कम होता है

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हाथियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना

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# Trump pauses global tariffs, hits China harder

U.S. President announces pause of 90 days, but raises tariffs on Chinese goods to 125%

**GS Paper III: External Sector**

**Agence France-Presse**  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly backed down on Wednesday in his global trade war with a 90-day pause for most countries, but slapped even more levies against China in what has become a full-scale confrontation between the world's two largest economies.

"I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE" on higher tariffs that took effect on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said on the Truth Social network, saying he took the decision after more than 75 countries had reached out to negotiate and did not retaliate

against the United States.

"Based on the lack of respect that China has shown to the World's Markets, I am hereby raising the Tariff charged to China by the United States of America to 125 percent, effective immediately," Mr. Trump added.

Mr. Trump had only hours earlier ramped up the duties on Chinese goods to a giant 104%. China then retaliated by rising tariffs on U.S. imports to 84%. Following days of global market turmoil, Wall Street stocks surged in reaction to Mr. Trump's announcement.

Only a flat rate of 10% tariffs on all countries that took effect on Saturday will remain in place. This

Decision result of more than 75 countries reaching out to negotiate rather than retaliate, says Trump

Flat rate of 10% tariffs on all countries that took effect on Saturday to remain in place



marked a stunning reverse from often punishing levies that hit even many of the closest U.S. allies.

But Mr. Trump accused China of still "ripping off" his country. "At some

point, hopefully in the near future, China will realize that the days of ripping off the U.S.A., and other Countries, is no longer sustainable or acceptable," Mr. Trump said.

The European Union had earlier launched its own counter-attack, announcing measures targeting some U.S. products from Tuesday in retaliation for American duties on global steel and aluminium exports.

The 27-nation bloc, which Mr. Trump has accused of being created to "screw" the United States, will hit more than 20 billion euros' worth of U.S. products, including soybeans, motorcycles and beauty products.

But the EU notably did not retaliate against the 20% U.S. tariffs that came into effect a minute after midnight on Wednesday.

Mr. Trump announced a week ago on what he called

"Liberation Day" that he would impose a 10% base-line tariff on all countries that took effect on Saturday, with additional rates for economies including China and the EU with a large trade surplus with the United States that took effect on Wednesday.

**'Will work out well'**

With markets roiled for the past week, Mr. Trump earlier Wednesday urged Americans to "BE COOL!" and said that "everything is going to work out well."

Wall Street stocks rocketed higher on Wednesday after Mr. Trump's pause announcement.

Minutes after Mr. Trump unveiled it, the S&P 500 surged 6% higher to

5,281.44, snapping a brutal run of losses over the past week. European and Asian stock markets had earlier tumbled along with oil and the dollar as the confrontation escalated.

U.S. bond yields had also risen amid a sharp sell-off – a major economic red light as sovereign government debt is normally seen as a safe haven for investors in troubled times.

Before his pivot, Mr. Trump said world leaders were rushing to negotiate "tailored" deals with the United States, with Japan and South Korea among those sending delegations to Washington.

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## Trump pauses global tariffs, hits China harder

ट्रंप ने वैश्विक टैरिफ़ पर रोक लगाई, लेकिन चीन पर कड़ी मार की

**U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly backed down on Wednesday in his global trade war with a 90-day pause for most countries, but slapped even more levies against China in what has become a full-scale confrontation between the world's two largest economies.**

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने बुधवार को अपनी वैश्विक व्यापार युद्ध नीति में अचानक पीछे हटते हुए अधिकांश देशों के लिए 90 दिनों की रोक लगा दी, लेकिन चीन पर और अधिक शुल्क थोप दिए, जिससे दुनिया की दो सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के बीच यह संघर्ष पूर्ण रूप से टकराव में बदल गया।

• "I have authorized a **90 day PAUSE**" on higher tariffs that took effect on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said on the **Truth Social network**, saying he took the decision after **more than 75 countries** had reached out to negotiate and did not retaliate against the United States.

ट्रंप ने **Truth Social** नेटवर्क पर कहा, "मैंने **90 दिनों की रोक** को अधिक टैरिफ़ पर लागू करने की अनुमति दी है", उन्होंने यह निर्णय इसलिए लिया क्योंकि **75 से अधिक देशों** ने अमेरिका से बातचीत के लिए संपर्क किया और प्रतिशोध नहीं किया।

• "Based on the lack of respect that China has shown to the World's Markets, I am hereby raising the Tariff charged to China by the United States of America to **125 percent**, effective immediately," Mr. Trump added.



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"चीन ने वैश्विक बाजारों के प्रति जो **असम्मान** दिखाया है, उसके आधार पर मैं अमेरिका द्वारा चीन पर लगाए गए टैरिफ को **125 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ा रहा हूँ, जो तुरंत प्रभावी होगा**", ट्रंप ने जोड़ा।

• Mr. Trump had only hours earlier **ramped up the duties on Chinese goods to a giant 104%**.  
ट्रंप ने कुछ घंटे पहले ही **चीनी सामानों पर शुल्क को 104%** तक बढ़ा दिया था।

• China then **retaliated by raising tariffs on U.S. imports to 84%**.

इसके बाद चीन ने अमेरिका से आयातित सामानों पर **84%** तक टैरिफ बढ़ाकर जवाबी कार्रवाई की।

• Following days of global market turmoil, **Wall Street stocks surged** in reaction to Mr. Trump's announcement.

दुनियाभर के बाजारों में कई दिनों की **अस्थिरता** के बाद, ट्रंप की घोषणा के चलते **वॉल स्ट्रीट के शेयरों में उछाल** आया।

• Only a **flat rate of 10% tariffs** on all countries that took effect on **Saturday** will remain in place.

सिर्फ **शनिवार** से प्रभावी **10% की फ्लैट दर टैरिफ़** सभी देशों पर लागू रहेगी।

• This marked a stunning reverse from often punishing levies that hit even many of the closest U.S. allies.

यह एक चौंकाने वाला बदलाव है क्योंकि इससे पहले **कई करीबी अमेरिकी सहयोगी देशों** पर भी कठोर शुल्क लगाए गए थे।

• But Mr. Trump accused China of still "**ripping off**" his country.

लेकिन ट्रंप ने चीन पर अब भी अमेरिका को "**धोखा देने**" का आरोप लगाया।

• "At some point, hopefully in the near future, China will realize that the days of ripping off the U.S.A., and other Countries, is no longer sustainable or acceptable," Mr. Trump said.

"किसी बिंदु पर, उम्मीद है कि जल्द ही, चीन को समझ में आ जाएगा कि **अमेरिका और अन्य देशों को धोखा देने** के दिन अब **न तो टिकाऊ हैं और न ही स्वीकार्य**", ट्रंप ने कहा।

• The **European Union** had earlier launched its own **counter-attack**, announcing measures targeting some U.S. products from **Tuesday** in retaliation for American duties on global steel and aluminium exports.

**यूरोपीय संघ** ने पहले ही **मंगलवार** से कुछ अमेरिकी उत्पादों को निशाना बनाते हुए **प्रतिउत्तरात्मक कार्रवाई** शुरू की थी, जो अमेरिका द्वारा वैश्विक **स्टील और एल्युमिनियम** निर्यात पर शुल्क लगाने के जवाब में थी।

• The **27-nation bloc**, which Mr. Trump has accused of being created to "**screw**" the United States, will hit more than **20 billion euros' worth** of U.S. products, including **soybeans, motorcycles and beauty products**.



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27 देशों वाला यह समूह, जिसे ट्रंप ने अमेरिका को "धोखा देने" के लिए बनाया गया बताया, अब 20 अरब यूरो से अधिक के अमेरिकी उत्पादों पर शुल्क लगाएगा, जिनमें सोयाबीन, मोटरसाइकिल और सौंदर्य उत्पाद शामिल हैं।

• But the EU notably did not retaliate against the 20% U.S. tariffs that came into effect a minute after midnight on Wednesday.

हालांकि बुधवार की आधी रात के एक मिनट बाद लागू हुए 20% अमेरिकी टैरिफ़ के खिलाफ़ ईयू ने कोई जवाबी कार्रवाई नहीं की।

• Mr. Trump announced a week ago on what he called "Liberation Day" that he would impose a 10% baseline tariff on all countries that took effect on Saturday, with additional rates for China and the EU taking effect on Wednesday.

ट्रंप ने एक हफ्ते पहले "मुक्ति दिवस (Liberation Day)" पर घोषणा की थी कि वे सभी देशों पर 10% बेसलाइन टैरिफ़ लगाएंगे जो शनिवार से प्रभावी होगा, और चीन व यूरोपीय संघ जैसे देशों पर अतिरिक्त दरें बुधवार से लागू होंगी।

**'Will work out well'**

**'सब ठीक हो जाएगा'**

• With markets roiled for the past week, Mr. Trump earlier Wednesday urged Americans to "BE COOL!" and said that "everything is going to work out well".

पिछले सप्ताह से बाजारों में उथल-पुथल के बीच, ट्रंप ने बुधवार को अमेरिकी नागरिकों से कहा "शांत रहें! (BE COOL!)" और यह भी कहा कि "सब कुछ ठीक होने वाला है"।

• Wall Street stocks rocketed higher on Wednesday after Mr. Trump's pause announcement. ट्रंप की रोक की घोषणा के बाद बुधवार को वॉल स्ट्रीट के शेयरों में जबरदस्त उछाल आया।

• Minutes after Mr. Trump unveiled it, the S&P 500 surged 6% higher to 5,281.44, snapping a brutal run of losses over the past week.

ट्रंप की घोषणा के कुछ ही मिनटों बाद, S&P 500 में 6% की बढ़त हुई और यह 5,281.44 तक पहुंच गया, जिससे पिछले हफ्ते की लगातार गिरावट थम गई।

• European and Asian stock markets had earlier tumbled along with oil and the dollar as the confrontation escalated.

इससे पहले, यूरोपीय और एशियाई शेयर बाजार, साथ ही तेल और डॉलर भी संघर्ष बढ़ने के कारण गिरावट में थे।

• U.S. bond yields had also risen amid a sharp selloff — a major economic red light as sovereign government debt is normally seen as a safe haven for investors in troubled times.

अमेरिकी बॉन्ड यील्ड में भी तेजी से बिकवाली के कारण वृद्धि हुई — यह एक बड़ा आर्थिक चेतावनी संकेत है क्योंकि सरकारी ऋण आमतौर पर संकट के समय सुरक्षित निवेश माना जाता है।

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• Before his pivot, Mr. Trump said **world leaders** were rushing to negotiate “**tailored**” deals with the United States, with **Japan and South Korea** among those sending delegations to Washington.

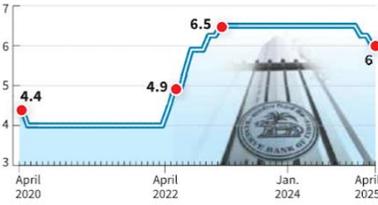
अपने रुख में बदलाव से पहले, ट्रंप ने कहा कि **विश्व नेता** अमेरिका के साथ “**विशेष रूप से तैयार (tailored)**” **समझौते** करने के लिए आगे आ रहे हैं, जिनमें **जापान और दक्षिण कोरिया** भी वाशिंगटन में प्रतिनिधिमंडल भेजने वाले देशों में शामिल हैं।

## RBI cuts repo rate by 0.25%, trims GDP growth forecast

**GS Paper III: Banking System**

Credit cushion

The Reserve Bank of India slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% on Wednesday. The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to banks to meet their short-term funding needs



**Lalalendu Mishra**  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% on Wednesday, with its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voting unanimously to reduce the policy rate in a bid to support growth and bring down the interest burden on home, auto, and other loan borrowers. However, this will also reduce the interest earned on savings by depositors.

The move comes against the backdrop of an escalating global trade war, triggered by U.S. President Donald Trump's wide-ranging tariffs. The MPC has also lowered its forecast for India's GDP growth this year, from 6.7% to 6.5%.

This is the second time in a row that the MPC has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) or 0.25%. The committee, headed by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, also unanimously shifted its policy stance from neutral to accommodative, indicating that it is more worried that economic growth could be a casualty of the trade war, than about inflation.

This is a policy stance “geared towards stimulating the economy through softer interest rates,” Mr. Malhotra said, signalling the likelihood of further rate cuts.

“Uncertainty in itself dampens growth by affecting investment and spending decisions,” he said, in a monetary statement explaining the situation. “Second, the dent on global growth due to trade friction will impede domestic growth. Third, higher tariffs shall have a negative impact on our exports,” he said.

**‘Known unknowns’**

“There are, however, several known unknowns – the impact of relative tariffs, the elasticities of our export and import demand; and the policy measures adopted by the Government, including the proposed Foreign Trade Agreement with the USA, to name a few. These make the quantification of the adverse impact difficult,” Mr. Malhotra emphasised.

The risks to inflation are two-sided, he pointed out. “On the upside, uncertainties may lead to possible currency pressures and imported inflation. On the downside, slowdown in global growth could entail further softening in commodity and crude oil prices, putting downward pressure on inflation,” he said.

“Overall, while global uncertainties shall impede growth, its impact on domestic inflation, while requiring us to be vigilant, is not expected to be of high concern,” he added.

## RBI cuts repo rate by 0.25%, trims GDP growth forecast

**आरबीआई ने रेपो रेट में 0.25% की कटौती की, जीडीपी वृद्धि दर का पूर्वानुमान घटाया**

The Reserve Bank of India slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% on Wednesday, with its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voting unanimously to reduce the policy rate in a bid to support growth and bring down the interest burden on home, auto, and other loan borrowers.

**भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने बुधवार को रेपो रेट में 25 बेसिस प्वाइंट्स की कटौती करते हुए इसे 6% कर दिया। इसकी मौद्रिक नीति समिति (MPC) ने सर्वसम्मति से इस कटौती के पक्ष में वोट किया ताकि घरेलू, ऑटो और अन्य ऋण लेने वालों पर ब्याज का बोझ कम किया जा सके और विकास को समर्थन मिल सके।**

• However, this will also reduce the interest earned on savings by depositors.

हालांकि, इससे जमाकर्ताओं को बचत पर मिलने वाला ब्याज भी घटेगा।

• The move comes against the backdrop of an **escalating global trade war**, triggered by **U.S. President Donald Trump's** wide-ranging tariffs. यह निर्णय वैश्विक व्यापार युद्ध के बढ़ते तनाव की पृष्ठभूमि में लिया गया है, जिसे **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** की व्यापक टैरिफ नीतियों ने शुरू किया।

• The MPC has also lowered its forecast for India's **GDP growth** this year, from **6.7% to 6.5%**.



MPC ने इस वर्ष भारत की जीडीपी वृद्धि दर का पूर्वानुमान 6.7% से घटाकर 6.5% कर दिया है।

• This is the **second time in a row** that the MPC has cut the repo rate by **25 basis points (bps)** or **0.25%**.

यह लगातार **दूसरी बार** है जब MPC ने **25 बेसिस प्वाइंट्स (0.25%)** की कटौती की है।

• The committee, headed by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**, also unanimously shifted its policy stance from **neutral to accommodative**, indicating that it is more worried that **economic growth** could be a casualty of the **trade war**, than about **inflation**.

**आरबीआई गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा** की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने अपनी नीति का रुख **न्यूट्रल से एकोमोडेटिव** में बदल दिया है, जो यह संकेत देता है कि समिति को **महंगाई** से अधिक चिंता **व्यापार युद्ध** के कारण **आर्थिक वृद्धि** पर संभावित असर को लेकर है।

• This is a policy stance "**geared towards stimulating the economy** through softer interest rates," Mr. Malhotra said, signalling the **likelihood of further rate cuts**.

मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि यह नीति रुख "**सॉफ्ट ब्याज दरों के माध्यम से अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करने**" की दिशा में है, और इससे **भविष्य में और दर कटौती की संभावना** भी जाहिर होती है।

• "**Uncertainty** in itself dampens growth by affecting **investment and spending decisions**," he said, in a monetary statement explaining the situation.

उन्होंने मौद्रिक बयान में कहा, "**अनिश्चितता** स्वयं ही निवेश और खर्च के फैसलों को प्रभावित करके **विकास को धीमा** कर देती है।"

• "Second, the **dent on global growth** due to trade friction will **impede domestic growth**.

दूसरे, **व्यापार तनाव** के कारण वैश्विक विकास में आई **गिरावट**, **घरेलू वृद्धि में भी बाधा** डालेगी।

• Third, **higher tariffs** shall have a **negative impact on our exports**," he said.

तीसरे, **उच्च टैरिफ़** का हमारे **निर्यात पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव** पड़ेगा।"

## 'Known unknowns'

### 'ज्ञात-अज्ञात जोखिम'

• "There are, however, several **known unknowns** — the impact of **relative tariffs**, the **elasticities of our export and import demand**; and the policy measures adopted by the Government, including the proposed **Foreign Trade Agreement with the USA**, to name a few.

"हालांकि, कुछ **ज्ञात-अज्ञात कारक** हैं — जैसे **अनुपातिक टैरिफ़** का प्रभाव, हमारे **निर्यात और आयात मांग की लोच**, और सरकार द्वारा अपनाए गए नीतिगत उपाय, जिनमें **अमेरिका के साथ प्रस्तावित विदेशी व्यापार समझौता** भी शामिल है।"



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• These make the **quantification of the adverse impact** difficult," Mr. Malhotra emphasised.  
मलहोत्रा ने जोर देते हुए कहा कि ये कारक नकारात्मक प्रभाव के आकलन को कठिन बना देते हैं।

• The risks to **inflation** are **two-sided**, he pointed out.  
उन्होंने बताया कि महंगाई के जोखिम दोनों ओर से आ सकते हैं।

• "On the upside, **uncertainties** may lead to possible **currency pressures** and **imported inflation**.

सकारात्मक पक्ष पर, अनिश्चितता से मुद्रा पर दबाव और आयातित महंगाई हो सकती है।

• On the downside, **slowdown in global growth** could entail further **softening in commodity and crude oil prices**, putting downward pressure on inflation," he said.

नकारात्मक पक्ष पर, वैश्विक विकास में मंदी से कमोडिटी और कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट आ सकती है, जिससे महंगाई पर नीचे की ओर दबाव पड़ेगा।"

• "Overall, while **global uncertainties shall impede growth**, its impact on **domestic inflation**, while requiring us to be **vigilant**, is **not expected to be of high concern**," he added.

"कुल मिलाकर, भले ही वैश्विक अनिश्चितताएं विकास में बाधा डालें, लेकिन घरेलू महंगाई पर इनका प्रभाव, जबकि हमें सावधान रहना होगा, ज्यादा चिंता का विषय नहीं माना जा रहा है।"

## **India ends transshipment facility for Bangladesh exports, cites congestion**



# India ends transshipment facility for Bangladesh exports, cites congestion

GS Paper III: Ports

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

India has withdrawn the transshipment facility it had extended to Bangladesh as it was creating "significant congestion" in Indian airports and ports, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday.

The move is not aimed at impacting Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly press briefing.

The move comes days after Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, visited Beijing and made statements that were deemed to be controversial as he advocated greater Chinese trade ties with northeastern India, using Bangladesh ports.

The remarks had attracted criticism from several Indian leaders, including Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. He



India began allowing the transshipment of cargo from Bangladesh through Indian Land Customs Stations in 2020. GETTY IMAGES

had objected to the Bangladeshi leader's description of northeast India as an extension for Chinese producers, terming it "offensive and highly condemnable".

Indian officials refused to confirm whether the withdrawal of transshipment facilities was linked to his remarks.

"The transshipment facility extended to Bangladesh had over a period of time resulted in significant

congestion at our airports and ports. Logistical delays and higher costs were hindering our own exports and creating backlogs.

The facility, therefore, has been withdrawn with effect from April 8, 2025. To clarify, these measures do not impact Bangladesh exports to Nepal or Bhutan transiting through Indian territory," Mr. Jaiswal said. On Tuesday, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs issued a noti-

fication terminating the transshipment facility for Bangladesh's trade with Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal.

## 'Essential' facility

In 2020, India had started allowing the transshipment of cargo from Bangladesh through Indian Land Customs Stations, which would then be sent to their final destinations using Indian ports and airports.

The facility is essential for the export of ready-made items from Bangladesh, as these are sent to countries such as Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar through Indian ports and airports.

The decision to withdraw it, which comes just days before the beginning of New Year festivities in Dhaka, is being perceived as a setback to bilateral trade that has been reeling from lack of Indian visas to the Bangladesh business community.

भारत ने बांग्लादेश के निर्यात के लिए ट्रांसशिपमेंट सुविधा समाप्त की, भीड़भाड़ का हवाला दिया

India has withdrawn the transshipment facility it had extended to Bangladesh as it was creating significant congestion in Indian airports and ports, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday.

भारत ने बुधवार को कहा

कि उसने बांग्लादेश को दी गई ट्रांसशिपमेंट सुविधा को भारतीय बंदरगाहों और हवाई अड्डों पर अत्यधिक भीड़भाड़ के कारण समाप्त कर दिया है, यह जानकारी विदेश मंत्रालय ने दी।

• The move is not aimed at impacting Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly press briefing.

विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रणधीर जायसवाल ने अपने साप्ताहिक प्रेस ब्रीफिंग में कहा कि यह कदम बांग्लादेश का नेपाल और भूटान के साथ व्यापार प्रभावित करने के उद्देश्य से नहीं उठाया गया है।

• The move comes days after Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, visited Beijing and made statements that were deemed to be controversial.

यह कदम तब आया है जब कुछ दिन पहले बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार के मुख्य सलाहकार मोहम्मद यूनस ने बीजिंग का दौरा किया और विवादास्पद बयान दिए।



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- He advocated **greater Chinese trade ties** with northeastern India, using **Bangladesh ports**.  
उन्होंने बांग्लादेशी बंदरगाहों के माध्यम से पूर्वोत्तर भारत के साथ चीन के व्यापारिक संबंधों को बढ़ावा देने की वकालत की।
- The remarks had attracted **criticism from several Indian leaders**, including **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**.  
इन बयानों की कई भारतीय नेताओं, विशेष रूप से असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंता बिस्वा सरमा ने कड़ी आलोचना की थी।
- He had objected to the **Bangladeshi leader's description of northeast India** as an extension for **Chinese producers**, terming it "**offensive and highly condemnable**".  
उन्होंने बांग्लादेशी नेता द्वारा पूर्वोत्तर भारत को चीनी उत्पादकों का विस्तार बताए जाने पर आपत्ति जताई और इसे "आपत्तिजनक और अत्यधिक निंदनीय" करार दिया।
- Indian officials refused to confirm whether the **withdrawal of transshipment facilities** was linked to his remarks.  
भारतीय अधिकारियों ने यह पुष्टि करने से इनकार कर दिया कि ट्रांसशिपमेंट सुविधा की समाप्ति का संबंध इन बयानों से है या नहीं।
- "The **transshipment facility** extended to Bangladesh had over a period of time resulted in **significant congestion** at our **airports and ports**.  
"बांग्लादेश को दी गई ट्रांसशिपमेंट सुविधा के कारण समय के साथ हमारे हवाई अड्डों और बंदरगाहों पर अत्यधिक भीड़ हो गई थी।
- **Logistical delays** and **higher costs** were hindering our own exports and creating **backlogs**.  
लॉजिस्टिक देरी और उच्च लागत हमारे अपने निर्यात को प्रभावित कर रही थीं और बैकलॉग पैदा कर रही थीं।
- The facility, therefore, has been **withdrawn with effect from April 8, 2025**.  
इसलिए यह सुविधा **8 अप्रैल 2025 से समाप्त** कर दी गई है।
- To clarify, these measures do **not impact Bangladesh exports to Nepal or Bhutan** transiting through **Indian territory**," Mr. Jaiswal said.  
स्पष्ट करते हुए श्री जायसवाल ने कहा कि इन उपायों का भारतीय क्षेत्र के माध्यम से नेपाल या भूटान को भेजे जा रहे बांग्लादेशी निर्यात पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।
- On **Tuesday**, the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs** issued a notification terminating the **transshipment facility** for Bangladesh's trade with **Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal**.  
मंगलवार को केंद्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर और सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड ने एक अधिसूचना जारी कर भूटान, म्यांमार और नेपाल के साथ बांग्लादेश के व्यापार के लिए ट्रांसशिपमेंट सुविधा समाप्त कर दी।



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## ‘Essential’ facility

### ‘आवश्यक’ सुविधा

• In 2020, India had started allowing the **transshipment of cargo from Bangladesh** through Indian **Land Customs Stations**, which would then be sent to their final destinations using **Indian ports and airports**.

2020 में भारत ने बांग्लादेश से माल के ट्रांसशिपमेंट की अनुमति देना शुरू किया था, जो भारतीय भूमि सीमा शुल्क चौकियों से होकर गुजरता और भारतीय बंदरगाहों व हवाई अड्डों के माध्यम से अपने अंतिम गंतव्य तक भेजा जाता था।

• The facility is **essential** for the export of **readymade items** from Bangladesh, as these are sent to countries such as **Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar** through Indian ports and airports.

यह सुविधा बांग्लादेश से रेडीमेड वस्त्रों के निर्यात के लिए आवश्यक है, क्योंकि इन्हें नेपाल, भूटान और म्यांमार जैसे देशों में भारतीय बंदरगाहों और हवाई अड्डों के माध्यम से भेजा जाता है।

• The decision to withdraw it, which comes just days before the **beginning of New Year festivities in Dhaka**, is being perceived as a **setback to bilateral trade** that has been reeling from **lack of Indian visas** to the **Bangladesh business community**.

इस सुविधा को समाप्त करने का निर्णय ढाका में नए साल के उत्सव की शुरुआत से कुछ दिन पहले आया है, और इसे भारत-बांग्लादेश द्विपक्षीय व्यापार के लिए झटका माना जा रहा है, जो बांग्लादेशी व्यापारियों को भारतीय वीजा की कमी से पहले ही प्रभावित है।



# Kerala and T.N. to conduct joint Nilgiri tahr census from April 24

**GS Paper III:  
The Environment**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala and Tamil Nadu will jointly carry out a Nilgiri tahr census from April 24 to 27. The survey will span 89 census blocks in Kerala and 176 blocks in Tamil Nadu over the four-day period.

Forest Minister A.K. Saaseendran, who announced the initiative recently, said the synchronised survey of the mountain ungulate is being conducted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Eravikulam National Park. The Kerala and Tamil Nadu's Forest departments have begun preparations to conduct the census across the contiguous Nilgiri tahr habitats, covering areas both



The survey will cover 89 census blocks in Kerala and 176 in T.N.

inside and outside protected forest zones.

According to Chief Wildlife Warden Pramod G. Krishnan, camera traps would be deployed and pellet samples would be collected from selected blocks for scientific analysis, including studies on genetic variation.

In Kerala, the 89 census blocks are located across

20 forest divisions, stretching from Thiruvananthapuram to Wayanad, regions known for their tahr populations.

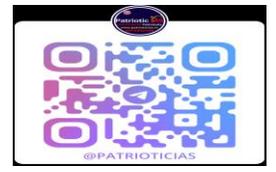
Around 1,300 census team members will participate in the survey.

The data collected will be analysed using the 'bounded count' method to estimate the population in each block.

## Kerala and T.N. to conduct joint Nilgiri tahr census from April 24

**केरल और तमिलनाडु 24 अप्रैल से संयुक्त नीलगिरि तहर जनगणना करेंगे**

• Kerala and Tamil Nadu will jointly carry out a Nilgiri tahr census from April 24 to 27.



केरल और तमिलनाडु 24 से 27 अप्रैल तक संयुक्त रूप से नीलगिरि तहर की जनगणना करेंगे।

• The survey will span 89 census blocks in Kerala and 176 blocks in Tamil Nadu over the four-day period.

यह सर्वेक्षण केरल में 89 जनगणना ब्लॉकों और तमिलनाडु में 176 ब्लॉकों में चार दिनों तक चलेगा।

• Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran, who announced the initiative recently, said the synchronised survey of the mountain ungulate is being conducted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Eravikulam National Park.

वन मंत्री ए.के. ससींद्रन ने हाल ही में यह पहल घोषित करते हुए कहा कि इस पहाड़ी वन्यजीव की समन्वित जनगणना एराविकुलम राष्ट्रीय उद्यान की 50वीं वर्षगांठ के उपलक्ष्य में की जा रही है।

• The Kerala and Tamil Nadu Forest departments have begun preparations to conduct the census across the contiguous Nilgiri tahr habitats, covering areas both inside and outside protected forest zones.

केरल और तमिलनाडु के वन विभागों ने संलग्न नीलगिरि तहर आवासों में, संरक्षित वनों के अंदर और बाहर, जनगणना के लिए तैयारियां शुरू कर दी हैं।

• According to Chief Wildlife Warden Pramod G. Krishnan, camera traps would be deployed and pellet samples would be collected from selected blocks for scientific analysis, including studies on genetic variation.

मुख्य वन्यजीव संरक्षक प्रमोद जी. कृष्णन के अनुसार, चयनित ब्लॉकों में कैमरा ट्रैप लगाए जाएंगे और मल के नमूने एकत्र किए जाएंगे ताकि वैज्ञानिक विश्लेषण किया जा सके, जिसमें आनुवंशिक विविधता का अध्ययन शामिल होगा।

• In Kerala, the 89 census blocks are located across 20 forest divisions, stretching from Thiruvananthapuram to Wayanad, regions known for their tahr populations.

केरल में 89 जनगणना ब्लॉक 20 वन प्रभागों में फैले हुए हैं, जो तिरुवनंतपुरम से वायनाड तक फैले हैं — ये क्षेत्र तहर की आबादी के लिए जाने जाते हैं।

• Around 1,300 census team members will participate in the survey.

इस जनगणना में लगभग 1,300 टीम सदस्य भाग लेंगे।

• The data collected will be analysed using the 'bounded count' method to estimate the population in each block.

एकत्र किए गए आंकड़ों का विश्लेषण 'बाउंडेड काउंट' पद्धति का उपयोग करके किया जाएगा ताकि प्रत्येक ब्लॉक में आबादी का अनुमान लगाया जा सके।



# Rana a small player, U.S. had stalled Headley's extradition, says ex-official

**GS Paper III: Internal Security**

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

With Tahawwur Hussain Rana, one of the co-conspirators in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, being extradited to India, former Union Home Secretary G.K Pillai said on Wednesday that Rana had a "small role" to play in the carnage but the main conspirator was protected by the U.S.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Pillai said that the U.S. acted in "bad faith" and despite knowing about the terror plan, they let Rana's school friend and main conspirator, David Coleman Headley, to continue with his "anti-India activity".

He said that Headley acted as a double agent for the U.S. government and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). After Headley's arrest in 2009, the Americans stalled his extradition to India by offering him plea-bargaining, he said.

"Even post the 26/11 attack, Headley came to



G.K. Pillai

Mumbai. We could have arrested him in Mumbai if we had known that he is an accomplice in terms of logistics and support. It was definitely bad faith by the Americans. It really shows that as far as the Americans are concerned, they only look after their interests," Mr. Pillai said.

Asked about the significance of Rana's extradition, Mr. Pillai said, "He had a small role to play, more of a passive role in providing the legal cover for Headley to be able to come to India. His role was setting up the immigration

office in Mumbai and employing Headley and it was during these trips that the latter identified the place of landing of the boat carrying the terrorists. He had done physical reconnaissance of all these places and passed on information to the ISI."

It was during Mr. Pillai's tenure in office that Headley and Rana were arrested by the U.S. authorities in October 2009, almost a year after the attacks that left 166 people dead.

"He was arrested when I was the Union Home Secretary but the legal process takes a long time, especially extradition. Finally it has happened," he said, adding that Rana would be convicted based on the evidence gathered so far.

Mr. Pillai said Headley, despite having a Pakistani father, could pass off as a U.S. citizen due to his appearance and the passport, which only had his mother's name. "Before 26/11 happened, he had made a number of trips to

India... from India, he went to Pakistan on his U.S. passport. Even our intelligence agencies did not suspect him to be a Pakistani agent primarily because he came on a U.S. passport and could pass off as a white American. The Americans very cleverly concealed his Pakistani identity. Had we known he was of Pakistani origin, every time he came to India, he would have been put under surveillance," Mr. Pillai said.

He said after the incident, the software to track foreigners was changed to flag persons frequently visiting India and Pakistan on foreign passports.

Rana, wanted by the NIA in the 2008 terror attack case, was lodged in a Los Angeles prison en route to India following the completion of extradition proceedings.

The Pakistani-Canadian citizen had challenged the extradition and the last attempt was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this week.

**Rana a small player, U.S. had stalled Headley's extradition, says ex-official**

**राना एक छोटा किरदार, अमेरिका ने हेडली के प्रत्यर्पण को रोका था, पूर्व अधिकारी का बयान**



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

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With Tahawwur Hussain Rana, one of the co-conspirators in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, being extradited to India, former Union Home Secretary G.K. Pillai said on Wednesday that Rana had a “small role” to play in the carnage but the main conspirator was protected by the U.S.

26/11 मुंबई आतंकी हमलों के एक सह-साजिशकर्ता तहव्वुर हुसैन राना को भारत प्रत्यर्पित किए जाने के साथ, पूर्व केंद्रीय गृह सचिव जी.के. पिल्लई ने बुधवार को कहा कि राना की भूमिका “छोटी” थी, लेकिन मुख्य साजिशकर्ता को अमेरिका ने संरक्षण दिया।

• In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Pillai said that the U.S. acted in “bad faith” and despite knowing about the terror plan, they let Rana’s school friend and main conspirator, David Coleman Headley, continue with his “anti-India activity”.

द हिंदू को दिए एक इंटरव्यू में श्री पिल्लई ने कहा कि अमेरिका ने “दुर्भावना” से कार्य किया और आतंकवादी योजना की जानकारी होने के बावजूद उन्होंने राना के स्कूल दोस्त और मुख्य साजिशकर्ता डेविड कोलमैन हेडली को “भारत-विरोधी गतिविधियों” को जारी रखने दिया।

• He said that Headley acted as a double agent for the U.S. government and Pakistan’s ISI. उन्होंने कहा कि हेडली अमेरिका सरकार और पाकिस्तान की आईएसआई दोनों के लिए एक दोहरा एजेंट के रूप में कार्य करता था।

• After Headley’s arrest in 2009, the Americans stalled his extradition to India by offering him plea-bargaining, he said.

2009 में हेडली की गिरफ्तारी के बाद, अमेरिका ने उसे प्ली-बर्गेनिंग का ऑफर देकर भारत प्रत्यर्पण को रोक दिया, उन्होंने कहा।

• “Even post the 26/11 attack, Headley came to Mumbai. We could have arrested him in Mumbai if we had known that he is an accomplice in terms of logistics and support.

26/11 हमले के बाद भी हेडली मुंबई आया। अगर हमें पता होता कि वह लॉजिस्टिक और समर्थन के रूप में एक सहयोगी है, तो हम उसे मुंबई में गिरफ्तार कर सकते थे।

• It was definitely bad faith by the Americans. It really shows that as far as the Americans are concerned, they only look after their interests,” Mr. Pillai said.

यह निश्चित रूप से अमेरिकियों की दुर्भावना थी। यह दिखाता है कि अमेरिका केवल अपने हितों की परवाह करता है,” श्री पिल्लई ने कहा।

• Asked about the significance of Rana’s extradition, Mr. Pillai said, “He had a small role, more of a passive role in providing the legal cover for Headley to be able to come to India.

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राना के प्रत्यर्पण के महत्व पर पूछे जाने पर श्री पिल्लई ने कहा, “उसकी भूमिका **छोटी और निष्क्रिय** थी, और उसने हेडली को भारत आने के लिए **कानूनी संरक्षण** प्रदान किया।”

• His role was **setting up the immigration office in Mumbai** and employing Headley and it was during these trips that the latter **identified the place of landing of the boat carrying the terrorists.**

उसने **मुंबई में इमिग्रेशन ऑफिस खोला** और हेडली को काम पर रखा और इन्हीं यात्राओं के दौरान हेडली ने **आतंकवादियों की नाव के उतरने की जगह की पहचान की।**

• He had done **physical reconnaissance** of all these places and **passed on information to the ISI.**

उसने इन सभी स्थानों की **भौतिक जासूसी** की और जानकारी **आईएसआई को भेजी।**

• It was during Mr. Pillai's tenure in office that **Headley and Rana were arrested by the U.S. authorities in October 2009**, almost a year after the attacks that left **166 people dead.**

श्री पिल्लई के कार्यकाल के दौरान **हेडली और राना को अक्टूबर 2009 में अमेरिका में गिरफ्तार किया गया**, यह हमला **166 लोगों की मौत** के लगभग एक साल बाद हुआ था।

• “He was arrested when I was the Union Home Secretary but the **legal process takes a long time**, especially **extradition.**

“जब मैं केंद्रीय गृह सचिव था तब उसकी गिरफ्तारी हुई, लेकिन **कानूनी प्रक्रिया में बहुत समय लगता है**, खासकर **प्रत्यर्पण में।**”

• Finally it has happened,” he said, adding that **Rana would be convicted** based on the **evidence gathered so far.**

“अंततः यह हुआ,” उन्होंने कहा, साथ ही बताया कि **अब तक जुटाए गए सबूतों के आधार पर राना को दोषी ठहराया जाएगा।**

• Mr. Pillai said **Headley**, despite having a **Pakistani father**, could pass off as a **U.S. citizen** due to his appearance and passport, which only had **his mother's name.**

श्री पिल्लई ने कहा कि **पाकिस्तानी पिता** होने के बावजूद **हेडली** अपनी शकल-सूरत और **सिर्फ मां का नाम** होने वाले **अमेरिकी पासपोर्ट** के कारण **अमेरिकी नागरिक** के रूप में पहचान से बच गया।

• “Before 26/11 happened, he had made a **number of trips to India...** from India, he went to Pakistan on his **U.S. passport.**

“26/11 से पहले वह **कई बार भारत आया...** और भारत से **अमेरिकी पासपोर्ट पर पाकिस्तान गया।**”

• Even our intelligence agencies did not suspect him to be a **Pakistani agent** primarily because he came on a **U.S. passport** and could **pass off as a white American.**

हमारी खुफिया एजेंसियों ने भी उसे **पाकिस्तानी एजेंट** नहीं समझा क्योंकि वह **अमेरिकी पासपोर्ट पर आया और सफेद अमेरिकी नागरिक** के रूप में पहचाना गया।

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• The Americans very cleverly **concealed his Pakistani identity**. Had we known he was of **Pakistani origin**, every time he came to India, he would have been put under **surveillance**, Mr. Pillai said.

अमेरिकियों ने बड़ी चालाकी से उसकी पाकिस्तानी पहचान छिपाई। अगर हमें पता होता कि वह पाकिस्तानी मूल का है, तो वह जब भी भारत आता, उसे निगरानी में रखा जाता, श्री पिल्लई ने कहा।

• He said after the incident, the **software to track foreigners** was changed to **flag persons frequently visiting India and Pakistan on foreign passports**.

उन्होंने कहा कि इस घटना के बाद विदेशियों पर निगरानी रखने वाले सॉफ्टवेयर में बदलाव किया गया ताकि विदेशी पासपोर्ट पर बार-बार भारत और पाकिस्तान आने वालों को चिह्नित किया जा सके।

• Rana, wanted by the **NIA in the 2008 terror attack case**, was lodged in a **Los Angeles prison en route to India** following the completion of **extradition proceedings**.

2008 के आतंकी हमले के मामले में एनआईए को वांछित राना को प्रत्यर्पण प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होने के बाद भारत लाने के दौरान लॉस एंजेलेस की जेल में रखा गया था।

• The **Pakistani-Canadian citizen** had **challenged the extradition** and the last attempt was **rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court** earlier this week.

पाकिस्तानी-कनाडाई नागरिक राना ने प्रत्यर्पण को चुनौती दी थी और उसकी अंतिम कोशिश को इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने खारिज कर दिया।

## Govt. approves ₹63,000-cr. deal for procuring Rafale-M jets

**GS Paper III: Internal Security**

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a nearly ₹63,000-crore deal for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighter jets from France for the Indian Navy, official sources confirmed.

The contract is expected to be concluded later this month. It includes 22 single-seater jets that can operate from aircraft carriers and four twin-seater trainer jets, which are not carrier-compatible.

The CCS approval for the government-to-government deal is the final step,



**Flight might:** Rafale-M jets lined up on French carrier *Charles de Gaulle* during the Varuna exercise last month. DINAKAR PERI

and the agreement now awaits formal conclusion. It is expected to be signed during the French Defence Minister's visit to India, likely later this month.

This leaves another me-

ga deal with France for three additional Scorpene-class conventional submarines awaiting CCS approval, before it can be finalised.

The delivery of the jets

will begin three-and-a-half years after the contract is signed and is expected to be completed in about six-and-a-half years, official sources said.

The Indian Air Force operates 36 Rafale jets, acquired under a ₹60,000-crore deal signed in September 2016.

The Indian Navy got the opportunity to witness the performance of the Rafale-M jets aboard the French aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* during the bilateral Varuna exercise last month.

Unlike the Rafale deal, which is an inter-governmental agreement, the deal for the Scorpene submarines is a follow-on to

the earlier deal for six submarines procured under Project-75, between Naval Group of France and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL).

On July 13, 2023, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, had accorded initial approval for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighters and three additional Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarines.

The Rafale-M jets are meant to fill the gap in the number of fighter jets till the under-development, indigenous Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) is inducted into service. The Navy current-

ly operates two aircraft carriers – *INS Vikramaditya*, which was procured from Russia, and the indigenously built *INS Vikrant*, which was commissioned in September 2022.

The Indian aircraft carriers use a ski-jump to launch aircraft, unlike the French carrier. Both carriers use arrestor cables to recover aircraft which use a tail hook.

The lifts aboard the Indian carriers were built to accommodate the Russian MIG-29K jets, and the Rafale-M jets would need slight modifications to fit in. The lifts are used to move the aircraft between the hangar and the flight deck.



## Govt. approves ₹63,000-cr. deal for procuring Rafale-M jets सरकार ने ₹63,000 करोड़ की राफेल-M जेट खरीद सौदे को मंजूरी दी

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a nearly ₹63,000-crore deal for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighter jets from France for the Indian Navy, official sources confirmed.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली कैबिनेट सुरक्षा समिति (CCS) ने बुधवार को भारतीय नौसेना के लिए फ्रांस से 26 राफेल-M लड़ाकू जेट की खरीद के लिए लगभग ₹63,000 करोड़ के सौदे को मंजूरी दी, अधिकारियों ने पुष्टि की।

- The contract is expected to be concluded **later this month**.  
यह अनुबंध इस महीने के अंत में पूरा होने की उम्मीद है।
- It includes **22 single-seater jets** that can operate from aircraft carriers and **four twin-seater trainer jets**, which are not carrier-compatible.  
इसमें **22 एक सीट वाले जेट** शामिल हैं जो विमान वाहक से उड़ान भर सकते हैं और **चार दो सीट वाले ट्रेनर जेट** शामिल हैं, जो विमान वाहक के अनुकूल नहीं हैं।
- The CCS approval for the **government-to-government deal** is the **final step**, and the agreement now awaits formal conclusion.  
सरकार-से-सरकार के सौदे के लिए **CCS की मंजूरी अंतिम चरण** है, और अब यह समझौता औपचारिक निष्कर्ष की प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है।
- It is expected to be signed during the **French Defence Minister's visit to India**, likely **later this month**.  
इसके फ्रांस के रक्षा मंत्री की भारत यात्रा के दौरान इस महीने के अंत में हस्ताक्षर किए जाने की संभावना है।
- This leaves another **mega deal with France** for **three additional Scorpene-class submarines** awaiting CCS approval.  
इससे फ्रांस के साथ **तीन अतिरिक्त स्कॉर्पेन श्रेणी की पनडुब्बियों** के लिए एक और **बड़ा सौदा CCS की मंजूरी** की प्रतीक्षा में है।
- The **delivery of the jets** will begin **three-and-a-half years** after the contract is signed and is expected to be completed in about **six-and-a-half years**, official sources said.  
अधिकारियों के अनुसार, **जेट की डिलीवरी** अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर के **साढ़े तीन साल बाद** शुरू होगी और लगभग **साढ़े छह साल** में पूरी होने की उम्मीद है।



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• The Indian Air Force operates **36 Rafale jets**, acquired under a **₹60,000-crore** deal signed in **September 2016**.

भारतीय वायु सेना वर्तमान में 36 राफेल जेट का संचालन करती है, जिन्हें सितंबर 2016 में ₹60,000 करोड़ के सौदे के तहत प्राप्त किया गया था।

• The Indian Navy witnessed the **performance of the Rafale-M jets** aboard the **French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle** during the **Varuna exercise** last month.

भारतीय नौसेना ने पिछले महीने वरुण अभ्यास के दौरान फ्रांसीसी विमानवाहक पोत चार्ल्स डी गॉल पर राफेल-M जेट की प्रदर्शन क्षमता को देखा।

• Unlike the Rafale deal, which is an **inter-governmental agreement**, the deal for the **Scorpene submarines** is a **follow-on** to the earlier deal for six submarines under **Project-75** between **Naval Group of France** and **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL)**.

राफेल सौदे के विपरीत, जो एक सरकार-से-सरकार समझौता है, स्कॉर्पेन पनडुब्बियों का सौदा Project-75 के तहत पहले किए गए छह पनडुब्बियों के सौदे का अनुसरण है, जो फ्रांस के नेवल ग्रुप और मझगांव डॉक्स शिपबिल्डर्स लिमिटेड (MDL) के बीच हुआ था।

• On **July 13, 2023**, the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, had accorded **initial approval** for the procurement of **26 Rafale-M fighters** and **three additional Scorpene-class submarines**.

13 जुलाई 2023 को रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता वाली रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद (DAC) ने 26 राफेल-M लड़ाकू विमानों और तीन अतिरिक्त स्कॉर्पेन श्रेणी की पनडुब्बियों की खरीद को प्रारंभिक मंजूरी दी थी।

• The **Rafale-M jets** are meant to **fill the gap** in the number of fighters till the under-development, indigenous **Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF)** is inducted into service.

राफेल-M जेट का उद्देश्य तब तक लड़ाकू विमानों की कमी को पूरा करना है जब तक कि स्वदेशी ट्विन इंजन डेक-बेस्ड फाइटर (TEDBF) सेवा में शामिल नहीं हो जाता।

• The Navy currently operates **two aircraft carriers** — **INS Vikramaditya**, procured from **Russia**, and the **indigenously built INS Vikrant**, commissioned in **September 2022**.

नौसेना वर्तमान में दो विमानवाहक पोत संचालित करती है — रूस से प्राप्त INS विक्रमादित्य और स्वदेशी निर्मित INS विक्रान्त, जिसे सितंबर 2022 में कमीशन किया गया था।

• The **Indian aircraft carriers** use a **ski-jump** to launch aircraft, unlike the French carrier. Both carriers use **arrestor cables** to recover aircraft which use a **tail hook**.

भारतीय विमानवाहक पोत विमान उड़ाने के लिए स्की-जंप का उपयोग करते हैं, जबकि फ्रांसीसी पोत ऐसा नहीं करता। दोनों पोत विमान को रोकने के लिए एरेस्टर केबल्स का उपयोग करते हैं, जिनमें टेल हुक होता है।

• The **lifts aboard Indian carriers** were built to accommodate the **Russian MIG-29K jets**, and the **Rafale-M jets** would need **slight modifications** to fit in.

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भारतीय विमानवाहकों पर लगे लिफ्ट को रूसी मिग-29K जेट के लिए बनाया गया है, और राफेल-M जेट को फिट करने के लिए उनमें थोड़े संशोधन की आवश्यकता होगी।

- The lifts are used to move the aircraft between the hangar and the flight deck. ये लिफ्ट विमान को हेंगर और फ्लाइट डेक के बीच ले जाने के लिए उपयोग की जाती हैं।

# ‘Revise Aadhaar law to sync with personal data protection Act’

Vaishnaw says India has an indigenous, modern legal framework, and the two laws should be harmonised; he asks UIDAI to keep citizens as focus

**GS Paper III: Cyber Security**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

**U**nion Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday asked the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to come up with a new law for Aadhaar that is compatible with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Mr. Vaishnaw made the request at an Aadhaar *Samvaad* (debate) event.

“When the Aadhaar Act was passed [in 2016], there was no horizontal privacy law covering all sectors,” Mr. Vaishnaw said. “Now, we have the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the rules for the Act are almost finalised and will be notified soon. We have an indigenous, modern legal framework. Now we need to see how the Aadhaar law can be harmonised vis-à-vis the DPDP Act.”

The DPDP Act lays out



**Lofty goals:** IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw lays emphasis on public convenience as a priority for new Aadhaar law. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

requirements for firms and government bodies to protect citizens’ personal data, and provides for penalties in case of data breaches or leaks.

#### Notification soon

The draft rules to enforce the Act have not yet been notified; a draft is in the final stages of consultation, and is likely to be notified in the coming weeks.

“That is a task I would request the UIDAI to take up in a major way going forward,” Mr. Vaishnaw

said. The programme was attended by UIDAI officials and Aadhaar ecosystem partners.

Mr. Vaishnaw unveiled the look of the revamped Aadhaar mobile app, which will be rolled out to the public after testing.

Mr. Vaishnaw emphasised public convenience as a priority for the new law. He said the UIDAI should consider “what a modern Aadhaar Act should contain to keep the common citizen at the centre.”

‘Revise Aadhaar law to sync with personal data protection Act’

‘आधार कानून को व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम के अनुरूप संशोधित करें’

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday asked the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to come up with a new law for Aadhaar that is compatible with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

केंद्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने मंगलवार को भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण (UIDAI) से



## अनुरोध किया कि वह डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 के अनुरूप एक नया आधार कानून तैयार करे।

- Mr. Vaishnaw made the request at an **Aadhaar Samvaad (debate)** event.  
श्री वैष्णव ने यह अनुरोध 'आधार संवाद' कार्यक्रम में किया।
- "When the **Aadhaar Act** was passed [in 2016], there was no **horizontal privacy law** covering all sectors," Mr. Vaishnaw said.  
श्री वैष्णव ने कहा, "जब आधार अधिनियम [2016 में] पारित हुआ था, तब सभी क्षेत्रों को कवर करने वाला कोई क्षैतिज गोपनीयता कानून नहीं था।"
- "Now, we have the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**, and the rules for the Act are almost finalised and will be **notified soon**.  
"अब हमारे पास डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 है और इस अधिनियम के लिए नियम लगभग अंतिम रूप में हैं और इन्हें जल्द अधिसूचित किया जाएगा।"
- We have an **indigenous, modern legal framework**. Now we need to see how the **Aadhaar law** can be **harmonised vis-à-vis the DPDP Act**.  
अब हमारे पास एक स्वदेशी, आधुनिक कानूनी ढांचा है। अब हमें देखना है कि आधार कानून को DPDP अधिनियम के अनुरूप कैसे बनाया जा सकता है।"
- The **DPDP Act** lays out requirements for **firms and government bodies** to **protect citizens' personal data**, and provides for **penalties** in case of **data breaches or leaks**.  
DPDP अधिनियम में कंपनियों और सरकारी निकायों के लिए नागरिकों के व्यक्तिगत डेटा की सुरक्षा की आवश्यकता को परिभाषित किया गया है और डेटा लीक या उल्लंघन की स्थिति में दंड का प्रावधान है।
- The **draft rules** to enforce the Act have not yet been notified; a draft is in the **final stages of consultation**, and is likely to be **notified in the coming weeks**.  
इस अधिनियम को लागू करने के लिए मसौदा नियम अभी तक अधिसूचित नहीं किए गए हैं; एक मसौदा परामर्श के अंतिम चरण में है और आगामी हफ्तों में अधिसूचित होने की संभावना है।
- "That is a task I would request the **UIDAI** to take up in a major way going forward," Mr. Vaishnaw said.  
श्री वैष्णव ने कहा, "मैं UIDAI से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वह इस कार्य को आगे बढ़ाते हुए प्राथमिकता के रूप में उठाए।"
- The programme was attended by **UIDAI officials** and **Aadhaar ecosystem partners**.  
इस कार्यक्रम में UIDAI अधिकारियों और आधार पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के भागीदारों ने भाग लिया।



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• Mr. Vaishnav unveiled the **look of the revamped Aadhaar mobile app**, which will be rolled out to the public **after testing**.

श्री वैष्णव ने नए स्वरूप वाले आधार मोबाइल ऐप का अनावरण किया, जिसे परीक्षण के बाद आम जनता के लिए शुरू किया जाएगा।

• Mr. Vaishnav emphasised **public convenience** as a priority for the new law.

श्री वैष्णव ने नए कानून में जनसुविधा को प्राथमिकता देने पर जोर दिया।

• He said the UIDAI should consider “what a **modern Aadhaar Act** should contain to keep the **common citizen at the centre**.”

उन्होंने कहा कि UIDAI को यह सोचना चाहिए कि एक आधुनिक आधार अधिनियम में क्या होना चाहिए ताकि सामान्य नागरिक को केंद्र में रखा जा सके।

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# As wildfires scorch the earth, the Arctic biome rejects more carbon

A new study has found the Arctic Boreal Zone began to turn into a carbon source before 1990, and it was helped by the Eastern Siberia fires in 2003 and the Timmins wildfire in Canada in 2012. The CO2 released in those two years far exceeded the amount the zone alone was able to absorb

GS Paper III:  
Environment

Arkatapa Basu

Multiple states in the U.S. were recently in the grip of tornadoes, wildfires, and dust storms. The fires that scorched parts of Texas and Oklahoma burnt through almost 300 homes, reliving the horrors a similar blaze inflicted on Los Angeles in January this year. The fires that raged across Eaton and Palisades in particular claimed at least 28 lives, destroyed more than 14,000 structures, and forced people to evacuate en masse.

The inferno engulfed at least 16,000 hectares of land, destroying various natural ecosystems, per state agency Cal Fire. In fact, Cal Fire said it was among the most destructive fires in California history.

Almost a month later, across the Pacific Ocean, another wildfire swept through the forests near Ofunato City in Japan. According to media reports, the fire had started burning in the mountainous region surrounding the city on February 26. It claimed the life of at least one person, damaged close to 210 buildings, and forced more than 4,200 residents in the area to evacuate. In all, the fire covered nearly 2,900 hectares of land, rendering it one of the largest fires Japan has suffered in the last five decades.

All these fires also released large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. According to the Copernicus Air Monitoring Service (CAMS) of the European Union, wildfires released 800,000 tonnes of carbon in January 2025 alone, and this was nearly four times the amount wildfires released in the same period a decade ago. CAMS also examined the fires' radiative power – i.e., the amount of heat they radiated, measured in watts – as recorded by NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites (which also track farm fires in India in winter). It found that this power exceeded the long-term average power between 2003 and 2024 by one order of magnitude.

## Highest land temperatures

According to the latest India State of Forest Report published on December 21, 2024, Uttarakhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh recorded the most fires in that year. Uttarakhand alone recorded 5,315 forest fires between November 2022 and June 2023. However, the report also said the number of fire 'hotspots' in the country seems to be dropping from 2.23 lakh in 2021-2022 and 2.12 lakh in 2022-2023 to 2.03 lakh in 2023-2024.

At the same time, India has been experiencing some of its highest land temperatures in recent years. In 2023, researchers at IIT-Kharagpur and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, reported that in India's northwest, northeast, and central regions, land temperature is rising 0.1°-0.3° C per decade in the pre-monsoon season and 0.2°-0.4° C per decade in the post-monsoon season.

Heat waves have also been found to be occurring earlier in the year, moving slower, and lasting longer. Together with prolonged dry spells, they create conditions ripe for wildfires. Suryaprabha Sadasivan, senior vice-president of consulting firm Chase India, wrote in *The Hindu* on February 12 that forest fires in India emit around 69 million tonnes of



A home is engulfed during the Eaton Fire on January 8, 2025, in Altadena, California. GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

carbon dioxide every year.

The intensity and frequency of wildfires raise the question: are the earth's natural carbon sinks able to absorb all the carbon being emitted?

## The Arctic carbon sink

The planet's oceans, forests, and soil are well-known carbon sinks. The Arctic Boreal Zone (ABZ) is a particularly important one: for many centuries now, its tundra, coniferous forests, and wetlands around the Arctic Circle have absorbed carbon and sequestered it in the zone's permafrost. Its coniferous forest is the world's largest land-based biome.

But according to a new study published in *Nature Climate Change*, the increasing ferocity of wildfires means that more than 30% of the ABZ has now stopped capturing carbon and is instead releasing it.

In the study, an international team of researchers analysed data from 200 monitoring sites worldwide between 1990 and 2020 and tracked year-round changes in the atmospheric concentration of carbon. Their analysis found that while the ABZ was actively absorbing carbon from the atmosphere from 2001-2020, fully one-third of the region has been releasing carbon dioxide since.

"While we found many northern ecosystems are still acting as carbon dioxide sinks, source regions and fires are now cancelling out much of that net uptake and reversing long-standing trends," Anna Virkkala, a research scientist at Woodwell Climate Research Center in the US and an author of the

**Wildfires released large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. According to the EU, wildfires released 800,000 tonnes of carbon in January 2025 alone, four times the amount such fires released a decade ago**

study, said in a statement.

The researchers were also able to specify the areas in the ABZ that had become carbon sources: while Alaska accounted for 44% of the "new" emissions, northern Europe and Siberia accounted for 25% and 13%, respectively. The study paper also stated that the carbon emissions from the longer, non-summer months in the ABZ had surpassed the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed during the summer months (June to August).

## Carbon sink to source

Finally, the team was able to estimate that the ABZ first began to transform from a carbon sink to a carbon source before 1990 and it was helped along by the Eastern Siberia fires in Russia in 2003 and the Timmins wildfire in Canada in 2012. According to the paper, the carbon dioxide released in these two years far exceeded the amount the ABZ alone was able to absorb.

One important reason for the ABZ releasing more carbon dioxide than what it can absorb is the thawing of tundra

permafrost. As global warming – whose effects have been more pronounced in cooler regions – dries out the soil and changes the type of plants that grow, the average temperature of the top soil rises and organic materials in the soil decompose, releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The consequences of these changes creates a dangerous feedback loop. According to the study, as wildfires become more common and more intense, they burn through the natural carbon reservoirs that have historically helped regulate the earth's climate. The carbon released from these fires further fuels global warming, which in turn creates conditions for more frequent and more intense wildfires. And so on.

The study also corroborated the findings of the 2024 Arctic Report Card issued by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This document stated that frequent wildfires are turning the Arctic tundra into a source of carbon by forcing it to absorb record levels of pollution due to burning fossil fuels.

Alaska Biological Research senior scientist Gerald Frost, who also co-authored the Arctic Report Card, told the NOAA, "Many of the Arctic's vital signs that we track are either setting or flirting with record-high or record-low values nearly every year. This is an indication that recent extreme years are the result of long-term, persistent changes, and not the result of variability in the climate system."

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**As wildfires scorch the earth, the Arctic biome rejects more carbon**

**जैसे-जैसे जंगलों में आग पृथ्वी को झुलसा रही है, आर्कटिक जैव क्षेत्र अधिक कार्बन को अस्वीकार कर रहा है**

**A new study has found the Arctic Boreal Zone began to turn into a carbon source before 1990, and it was helped by the Eastern Siberia fires in 2003 and the Timmins wildfire in Canada in 2012.**

**एक नई अध्ययन में पाया गया कि**

**आर्कटिक बोरेल ज़ोन 1990 से पहले ही कार्बन स्रोत में बदलना शुरू हो गया था, और**



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इसमें 2003 में पूर्वी साइबेरिया की आग और 2012 में कनाडा की टिमिंस जंगल की आग ने मदद की।

• The **CO<sub>2</sub> released** in those two years far **exceeded** the amount the zone alone was able to absorb.

इन दो वर्षों में जो **CO<sub>2</sub> उत्सर्जित** हुई, वह इस क्षेत्र की अवशोषित करने की क्षमता से कहीं अधिक थी।

## Recent Wildfires and their Devastating Impact

### हाल की जंगल की आग और उनका विनाशकारी प्रभाव

• Multiple states in the **U.S.** were recently in the grip of **tornadoes, wildfires, and dust storms.** हाल ही में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के कई राज्य बवंडर, जंगल की आग और धूल भरी आंधियों की चपेट में थे।

• The fires that scorched parts of **Texas and Oklahoma** burnt through almost **300 homes**, reliving the horrors a similar blaze inflicted on **Los Angeles** in **January 2025.**

टेक्सास और ओक्लाहोमा के हिस्सों को झुलसाने वाली आग ने लगभग **300 घरों** को जला दिया, जिससे **जनवरी 2025** में **लॉस एंजेलिस** में लगी एक इसी तरह की आग की भयावहता फिर से सामने आई।

• The fires in **Eaton and Palisades** claimed at least **28 lives**, destroyed more than **14,000 structures**, and forced people to **evacuate en masse.**

ईटन और पैलिसैड्स में लगी आग ने कम से कम **28 लोगों** की जान ली, **14,000 से अधिक संरचनाएं** नष्ट कर दीं, और लोगों को **बड़ी संख्या में पलायन** करने के लिए मजबूर किया।

• The **inferno** engulfed at least **16,000 hectares** of land, destroying various **natural ecosystems**, per state agency **Cal Fire.**

इस **भीषण आग** ने राज्य एजेंसी **Cal Fire** के अनुसार कम से कम **16,000 हेक्टेयर** भूमि को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया और कई **प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों** को नष्ट कर दिया।

• Cal Fire said it was among the **most destructive fires** in **California history.**

Cal Fire ने कहा कि यह **कैलिफोर्निया** के इतिहास की सबसे विनाशकारी आगों में से एक थी।

## Wildfire in Japan

### जापान में जंगल की आग

• Across the **Pacific Ocean**, another wildfire swept through the forests near **Ofunato City** in **Japan.**

प्रशांत महासागर के उस पार, एक और जंगल की आग ने **जापान** के **ओफुनातो शहर** के पास के जंगलों को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया।

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- The fire had started burning on **February 26** in the **mountainous region** surrounding the city.  
यह आग 26 फरवरी को शहर के आसपास के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र में जलना शुरू हुई थी।
- It claimed the life of at least **one person**, damaged close to **210 buildings**, and forced more than **4,200 residents** to evacuate.  
इसने कम से कम एक व्यक्ति की जान ले ली, लगभग 210 इमारतों को नुकसान पहुंचाया, और 4,200 से अधिक निवासियों को पलायन के लिए मजबूर कर दिया।
- In all, the fire covered nearly **2,900 hectares** of land, making it one of the **largest fires Japan has suffered in the last five decades**.  
कुल मिलाकर, आग ने लगभग 2,900 हेक्टेयर भूमि को घेर लिया, जिससे यह पिछले पांच दशकों में जापान द्वारा झेली गई सबसे बड़ी आगों में से एक बन गई।

## Global Carbon Emissions and Fire Intensity

### वैश्विक कार्बन उत्सर्जन और आग की तीव्रता

- These fires released **large quantities of carbon** into the atmosphere.  
इन आगों ने वातावरण में बड़ी मात्रा में कार्बन उत्सर्जित किया।
- According to the **Copernicus Air Monitoring Service (CAMS)** of the **European Union**, wildfires released **800,000 tonnes of carbon in January 2025 alone**.  
यूरोपीय संघ की कोपर्निकस एयर मॉनिटरिंग सेवा (CAMS) के अनुसार, केवल जनवरी 2025 में जंगल की आग ने 8 लाख टन कार्बन उत्सर्जित किया।
- This was nearly **four times** the amount wildfires released in the same period a decade ago.  
यह मात्रा एक दशक पहले इसी अवधि में जंगल की आग से हुए उत्सर्जन से लगभग चार गुना अधिक थी।
- CAMS also examined the fires' **radiative power** — measured in **watts** — using **NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites**.  
CAMS ने NASA के टेरा और एक्वा सैटेलाइट्स की मदद से आग की तापीय ऊर्जा (रेडिएटिव पावर) की भी जांच की, जिसे वॉट्स में मापा गया।
- The radiative power exceeded the **long-term average** between **2003 and 2024** by **one order of magnitude**.  
इस तापीय ऊर्जा ने 2003 से 2024 के बीच की दीर्घकालिक औसत से दस गुना अधिक हो गई।

## Forest Fires and Rising Land Temperatures in India

### भारत में जंगल की आग और बढ़ते भूमि तापमान

- According to the latest **India State of Forest Report** published on **December 21, 2024**, **Uttarakhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh** recorded the **most fires** that year.

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21 दिसंबर 2024 को प्रकाशित भारत वन स्थिति रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, उत्तराखंड, ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़ ने उस वर्ष सबसे अधिक आग दर्ज की।

• **Uttarakhand alone recorded 5,315 forest fires between November 2022 and June 2023.**  
केवल उत्तराखंड ने नवंबर 2022 से जून 2023 के बीच 5,315 जंगल की आग दर्ज की।

• However, the number of fire 'hotspots' in the country seems to be **dropping**: from 2.23 lakh (2021–2022) and 2.12 lakh (2022–2023) to 2.03 lakh (2023–2024).

हालांकि, देश में आग के 'हॉटस्पॉट्स' की संख्या में गिरावट देखी गई है: 2.23 लाख (2021–2022), 2.12 लाख (2022–2023) से घटकर 2.03 लाख (2023–2024) हो गई है।

• India has been experiencing some of its **highest land temperatures** in recent years.  
भारत हाल के वर्षों में अपने **सबसे अधिक भूमि तापमान** का अनुभव कर रहा है।

• In 2023, researchers from IIT-Kharagpur and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, reported that land temperature is rising **0.1°C–0.3°C per decade** in the pre-monsoon season and **0.2°C–0.4°C per decade** in the post-monsoon season.

2023 में, IIT-खड़गपुर और भारतीय उष्णकटिबंधीय मौसम विज्ञान संस्थान, पुणे के शोधकर्ताओं ने बताया कि प्री-मानसून में तापमान प्रति दशक 0.1°C–0.3°C, और पोस्ट-मानसून में 0.2°C–0.4°C की दर से बढ़ रहा है।

• **Heat waves** have also been found to be occurring **earlier**, moving **slower**, and **lasting longer**.

लू (हीट वेव्स) अब जल्दी, धीरे चलने वाली, और अधिक समय तक टिकने वाली पाई गई हैं।

• Together with **prolonged dry spells**, they create conditions ripe for **wildfires**.  
लंबी सूखी अवधि के साथ मिलकर ये जंगल की आग के लिए अनुकूल परिस्थितियाँ बनाती हैं।

• **Suryaprabha Sadasivan**, senior vice-president at **Chase India**, wrote on **February 12** in *The Hindu* that **forest fires in India emit around 69 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year**.

12 फरवरी को द हिंदू में चेज़ इंडिया की वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष सूर्यप्रभा सदासिवन ने लिखा कि भारत में जंगल की आग हर साल लगभग 6.9 करोड़ टन कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड उत्सर्जित करती है।

## Conclusion and Concern

### निष्कर्ष और चिंता

• The **intensity and frequency** of wildfires raise the question: are the **earth's natural carbon sinks** able to absorb all the **carbon being emitted**?

जंगल की आग की तीव्रता और बारंबारता यह सवाल उठाती है: क्या पृथ्वी के प्राकृतिक कार्बन अवशोषक इस उत्सर्जित हो रहे कार्बन को अवशोषित कर पाने में सक्षम हैं?

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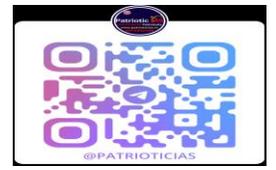
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## The Arctic carbon sink

### आर्कटिक कार्बन सिंक

- The planet's **oceans, forests, and soil** are well-known **carbon sinks**.

पृथ्वी के महासागर, जंगल और मिट्टी प्रसिद्ध कार्बन सिंक हैं।

- The **Arctic Boreal Zone (ABZ)** is a particularly important one: for many centuries now, its **tundra, coniferous forests, and wetlands** around the Arctic Circle have absorbed carbon and sequestered it in the zone's **permafrost**.

आर्कटिक बोरेल ज़ोन (ABZ) विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है: कई सदियों से इसके टुंड्रा, कोणधारी वन और आर्द्रभूमियाँ कार्बन को अवशोषित कर इसे क्षेत्र के पर्माफ्रॉस्ट में संग्रहीत कर रही हैं।

- Its **coniferous forest** is the world's **largest land-based biome**.

इसका कोणधारी वन दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा स्थलीय बायोम है।

- But according to a new study published in **Nature Climate Change**, the increasing **ferocity of wildfires** means that more than **30% of the ABZ** has now stopped capturing carbon and is instead **releasing it**.

लेकिन नेचर क्लाइमेट चेंज में प्रकाशित एक नई स्टडी के अनुसार, जंगलों की आग की बढ़ती तीव्रता के कारण अब ABZ का 30% से अधिक हिस्सा कार्बन को पकड़ने के बजाय उसे छोड़ रहा है।

- In the study, an international team of researchers analysed data from **200 monitoring sites worldwide** between **1990 and 2020** and tracked year-round changes in atmospheric carbon.

इस अध्ययन में, एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोधकर्ता टीम ने 1990 से 2020 के बीच दुनिया भर के 200 निगरानी स्थलों से डेटा का विश्लेषण किया और पूरे वर्ष वायुमंडलीय कार्बन में बदलावों को ट्रैक किया।

- Their analysis found that while the ABZ was actively absorbing carbon from **2001-2020**, fully **one-third** of the region has been **releasing carbon dioxide** since.

उनके विश्लेषण में पाया गया कि 2001 से 2020 तक ABZ सक्रिय रूप से कार्बन अवशोषित कर रहा था, लेकिन अब एक-तिहाई क्षेत्र कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड छोड़ रहा है।

- "While we found many northern ecosystems are still acting as carbon dioxide sinks, **source regions and fires** are now cancelling out much of that net uptake," said **Anna Virkkala**, research scientist at **Woodwell Climate Research Center**.

"हालांकि हमने पाया कि कई उत्तरी पारिस्थितिक तंत्र अभी भी कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड सिंक के रूप में काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन स्रोत क्षेत्रों और आग अब उस कुल अवशोषण को बेअसर कर रहे हैं," ऐसा कहा वुडवेल क्लाइमेट रिसर्च सेंटर की वैज्ञानिक एना विरकाला ने।

- The researchers also specified the areas in ABZ that had become carbon sources: **Alaska** accounted for **44%**, **northern Europe** for **25%**, and **Siberia** for **13%** of the new emissions.



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शोधकर्ताओं ने ABZ में वे क्षेत्र भी चिन्हित किए जो कार्बन स्रोत बन चुके हैं: अलास्का ने 44%, उत्तरी यूरोप ने 25%, और साइबेरिया ने 13% नए उत्सर्जन का योगदान दिया।

• The study also said that **carbon emissions during non-summer months** in ABZ had **surpassed** the carbon dioxide absorbed during **summer (June to August)**.

अध्ययन में यह भी बताया गया कि ABZ में गर्मी के महीनों (जून से अगस्त) के दौरान अवशोषित कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड की तुलना में गैर-गर्मियों के महीनों में अधिक उत्सर्जन हुआ।

## Carbon sink to source

### कार्बन सिंक से स्रोत में परिवर्तन

• The team estimated that ABZ began transforming from a carbon sink to a carbon source **before 1990**.

टीम ने अनुमान लगाया कि ABZ ने 1990 से पहले ही एक कार्बन सिंक से कार्बन स्रोत में बदलना शुरू कर दिया था।

• This change was accelerated by **Eastern Siberia fires in 2003** and the **Timmins wildfire in Canada in 2012**.

इस बदलाव को 2003 में पूर्वी साइबेरिया की आग और 2012 में कनाडा की टिमिन्स वाइल्डफायर ने तेज कर दिया।

• The carbon dioxide released in these two years **far exceeded** the amount ABZ could absorb. इन दोनों वर्षों में छोड़ी गई कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड की मात्रा ABZ की अवशोषण क्षमता से कहीं अधिक थी।

• One major reason ABZ is releasing more CO<sub>2</sub> is the **thawing of tundra permafrost**. ABZ द्वारा अधिक कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड छोड़ने का एक मुख्य कारण टुंड्रा पर्माफ्रॉस्ट का पिघलना है।

• As **global warming** dries out soil and changes the plant types, the **average temperature of top soil** rises and organic material decomposes, releasing CO<sub>2</sub>.

जैसे ही वैश्विक तापमान बढ़ने से मिट्टी सूखती है और पौधों की किस्में बदलती हैं, मिट्टी की ऊपरी परत का औसत तापमान बढ़ जाता है और कार्बनिक पदार्थ विघटित होकर CO<sub>2</sub> छोड़ते हैं।

• These changes create a **dangerous feedback loop**: wildfires destroy carbon reservoirs, release carbon, fuel global warming, and create more fires.

ये परिवर्तन एक खतरनाक फीडबैक चक्र बनाते हैं: जंगल की आग कार्बन भंडारों को नष्ट करती है, कार्बन छोड़ती है, वैश्विक तापमान बढ़ाती है, जिससे और अधिक आग लगने की संभावना बनती है।

• The study corroborated the findings of the **2024 Arctic Report Card** by **US NOAA**, which said wildfires are turning **Arctic tundra into a carbon source**.



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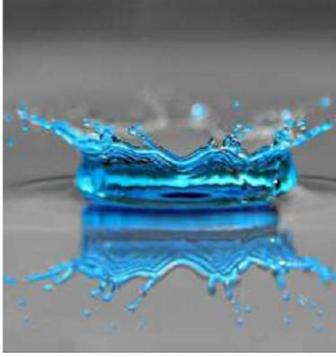
इस अध्ययन ने अमेरिका की NOAA द्वारा जारी 2024 आर्कटिक रिपोर्ट कार्ड के निष्कर्षों की पुष्टि की, जिसमें कहा गया कि जंगल की आग आर्कटिक टुंड्रा को कार्बन स्रोत में बदल रही है।

• **Gerald Frost**, senior scientist at **Alaska Biological Research**, said Arctic's vital signs are **setting record-high or record-low values** nearly every year.

अलास्का बायोलॉजिकल रिसर्च के वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक **जेराल्ड फ्रॉस्ट** ने कहा कि आर्कटिक के महत्वपूर्ण संकेत लगभग हर वर्ष **रिकॉर्ड उच्च या निम्न स्तर** पर पहुंच रहे हैं।

• He added this shows **extreme years** are the result of **long-term, persistent changes**, not just climate variability.

उन्होंने कहा कि इससे पता चलता है कि ये **चरम वर्ष**, केवल जलवायु परिवर्तनशीलता नहीं बल्कि **दीर्घकालिक और सतत परिवर्तनों** का परिणाम हैं।



Splashing is an important physical phenomenon, and understanding it is key to improving many industrial processes. PIXABAY

## Charged water makes a smaller splash

GS Paper III: S&T  
Vasudevan Mukunth

When a drop of water falls on a glass top, there's a splash.

As the bead strikes the glass, its momentum, until then moving downward, is transferred in a horizontal direction. This sudden redistribution of energy causes a sheet of the liquid, called a lamella, to peel off from the drop. It's lifted up from the surface by a thin layer of gas between the sheet and the glass and by a difference in pressure acting on the sheet's top and bottom sides. This lift causes the lamella to break up into droplets, creating a splash.

Scientists study this splash in detail because, in the words of a 2014 paper in *Physical Review Letters*, it's present in several "technological and scientific fields [including] ink-jet printing, combustion, and surface coating."

A disorderly splash can create unwanted effects in these processes. For example, ink deposited on a sheet of paper by a printer could create a smudge. Sometimes splashing is also beneficial. In a coal power plant, the feedwater entering the boiler could accumulate dissolved carbon dioxide, which needs to be removed or it could corrode the boiler vessel. To do this, cold feedwater is first

difference in **pressure**  
bottom sides.

गैस की पतली परत और शीट के ऊपर और नीचे के दबाव के अंतर से ऊपर उठती है।

**When the charged drop hit the surface, a lamella was formed – but it didn't lift. In the end, the splash was much smaller. Beyond a particular charge, the drop made no splash at all**

splashed on a surface. The splash produces droplets that are collected in a vessel, through which steam from a turbine is passed. As the feedwater heats up, it releases its dissolved carbon dioxide, which is blown through a vent. Then the feedwater enters the boiler.

Splashing is an important physical phenomenon and understanding it is key to improving many industrial processes. That way, they may even be able to eliminate splashing altogether. A new study from researchers from China, Germany, Hong Kong, and Switzerland has reported just this.

According to the group, splashing can be prevented altogether if a water drop falling on a hard surface is electrically charged. The findings were published in *Physical Review Letters* on April 1.

The team's experiment was simple. A syringe needle releases water drops to a glass surface half to two feet below. On the way, the droplet passes through a copper hoop. The hoop and the needle are connected in an electrical circuit. When the drop passes through the hoop, it becomes electrically charged.

Video recordings revealed that when the charged drop hit the surface a lamella was formed – but it didn't lift. The charges on the lamella pulled it towards the surface and kept it from spreading out. In the end, the splash was much smaller. The researchers found that beyond a particular charge, created by tuning the electric field inside the hoop, the drop made no splash at all.

They also found the effect only happens when the drop falls on an insulating surface. An electrically conducting surface would take away the charge, leaving the drop to make a splash. "Our results ... highlight the potential of controlling splashing by manipulating drop charges," the researchers wrote in their paper.

## Charged Water Makes a Smaller Splash

विद्युत आवेशित पानी से

छींटा कम होता है

**When a drop of water falls on a glass top, there's a splash.**

जब पानी की एक बूंद कांच की सतह पर गिरती है, तो छींटा पड़ता है।

• As the bead strikes the glass, its **momentum**, until then moving downward, is transferred in a **horizontal direction**.

जब बूंद कांच से टकराती है, तो उसका गति संवेग, जो नीचे की ओर था, क्षैतिज दिशा में स्थानांतरित हो जाता है।

• This sudden redistribution of energy causes a sheet of the liquid, called a **lamella**, to peel off from the drop.

इस ऊर्जा के अचानक पुनर्वितरण से तरल की एक परत जिसे **लैमेल्ला** कहा जाता है, बूंद से अलग हो जाती है।

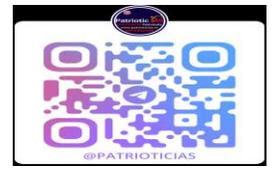
• It's lifted up from the surface by a thin layer of **gas** between the sheet and the glass and by a acting on the sheet's top and यह परत शीट और कांच के बीच की



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- This lift causes the lamella to break up into **droplets**, creating a **splash**.  
यह उठाव लैमेल्ला को बूँदों में तोड़ देता है, जिससे छींटा बनता है।
- Scientists study this splash in detail because, in the words of a **2014 paper** in *Physical Review Letters*, it's present in several **technological and scientific fields** including **ink-jet printing**, **combustion**, and **surface coating**.  
वैज्ञानिक इस छींटे का गहराई से अध्ययन करते हैं क्योंकि *Physical Review Letters* के **2014 के एक शोधपत्र** के अनुसार, यह **टेक्नोलॉजी और विज्ञान के कई क्षेत्रों** में पाया जाता है जैसे कि **इंक-जेट प्रिंटिंग, दहन और सतह कोटिंग**।
- A **disorderly splash** can create unwanted effects in these processes.  
एक **अव्यवस्थित छींटा** इन प्रक्रियाओं में अवांछनीय प्रभाव डाल सकता है।
- For example, **ink** deposited on a sheet of paper by a printer could create a **smudge**.  
उदाहरण के लिए, प्रिंटर द्वारा कागज़ पर डाली गई **स्याही** एक **धब्बा** बना सकती है।
- Sometimes splashing is also **beneficial**.  
कभी-कभी छींटा **लाभकारी** भी होता है।
- In a **coal power plant**, the **feedwater** entering the boiler could accumulate **dissolved carbon dioxide**, which needs to be removed or it could **corrode** the boiler vessel.  
एक **कोयला बिजली संयंत्र** में, बॉयलर में प्रवेश करने वाला **फीडवाटर घुली हुई कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड** जमा कर सकता है, जिसे हटाना आवश्यक है वरना यह बॉयलर को **जंग** लगा सकती है।
- To do this, cold feedwater is first **splashed on a surface**.  
इसे हटाने के लिए ठंडे फीडवाटर को पहले एक सतह पर **छींटा** जाता है।
- The splash produces **droplets** that are collected in a vessel, through which **steam from a turbine** is passed.  
यह छींटा **बूँदें** बनाता है जिन्हें एक बर्तन में इकट्ठा किया जाता है, जिसमें से **टर्बाइन की भाप** गुजरती है।
- As the feedwater heats up, it releases its **dissolved carbon dioxide**, which is **blown through a vent**.  
जैसे ही फीडवाटर गर्म होता है, वह अपनी **घुली हुई कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड** को छोड़ता है, जो एक **वेंट** के माध्यम से बाहर निकाली जाती है।
- Then the feedwater enters the **boiler**.  
इसके बाद फीडवाटर **बॉयलर** में प्रवेश करता है।
- Splashing is an important **physical phenomenon** and understanding it is key to improving many **industrial processes**.



छींटा एक महत्वपूर्ण भौतिक प्रक्रिया है और इसे समझना कई औद्योगिक प्रक्रियाओं को सुधारने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

• That way, they may even be able to **eliminate splashing altogether**.

इस तरह वे छींटे को पूरी तरह समाप्त भी कर सकते हैं।

• A **new study** from researchers from **China, Germany, Hong Kong, and Switzerland** has reported just this.

**चीन, जर्मनी, हांगकांग और स्विट्ज़रलैंड** के शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा की गई **नई स्टडी** ने यही बताया है।

• According to the group, splashing can be **prevented altogether** if a water drop falling on a hard surface is **electrically charged**.

इस समूह के अनुसार, यदि किसी कठोर सतह पर गिरने वाली पानी की बूंद को **विद्युत रूप से आवेशित** किया जाए तो छींटे को **पूरी तरह से रोका जा सकता है**।

• The findings were published in *Physical Review Letters* on **April 1**.

ये निष्कर्ष **1 अप्रैल** को *Physical Review Letters* में प्रकाशित हुए।

• The team's experiment was simple. A **syringe needle** releases water drops to a **glass surface** half to two feet below.

इस टीम का प्रयोग सरल था। एक **सिरिंज की सुई** से **आधा से दो फीट** नीचे की **कांच की सतह** पर पानी की बूंदें छोड़ी गईं।

• On the way, the droplet passes through a **copper hoop**.

रास्ते में, वह बूंद एक **तांबे की अंगूठी** से गुजरती है।

• The hoop and the needle are connected in an **electrical circuit**.

यह अंगूठी और सुई एक **विद्युत सर्किट** से जुड़ी होती हैं।

• When the drop passes through the hoop, it becomes **electrically charged**.

जब बूंद उस अंगूठी से गुजरती है, तो वह **विद्युत रूप से आवेशित** हो जाती है।

• **Video recordings** revealed that when the charged drop hit the surface a **lamella** was formed — but it didn't lift.

**वीडियो रिकॉर्डिंग** से पता चला कि जब आवेशित बूंद सतह से टकराई तो एक **लैमेल्ला** बना — लेकिन वह ऊपर नहीं उठा।

• The **charges** on the lamella pulled it towards the surface and kept it from **spreading out**.

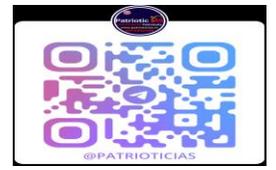
**लैमेल्ला पर मौजूद आवेश** ने उसे सतह की ओर खींचा और उसे **फैलने** से रोका।



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• In the end, the **splash was much smaller.**  
अंत में, छींटा बहुत छोटा था।

• The researchers found that beyond a **particular charge**, created by tuning the **electric field** inside the hoop, the drop made **no splash at all.**

शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि यदि अंगूठी के अंदर **इलेक्ट्रिक फील्ड** को समायोजित करके **एक विशेष स्तर से अधिक आवेश** दिया जाए, तो बूंद **बिल्कुल भी छींटा नहीं** बनाती।

• They also found the effect only happens when the drop falls on an **insulating surface.**  
उन्होंने यह भी पाया कि यह प्रभाव केवल तब होता है जब बूंद **इंसुलेटिंग सतह** पर गिरती है।

• An **electrically conducting surface** would take away the charge, leaving the drop to make a **splash.**

एक **विद्युत चालक सतह** आवेश को हटा देती है, जिससे बूंद फिर से **छींटा** बना देती है।

• “Our results ... highlight the potential of **controlling splashing** by manipulating **drop charges,**” the researchers wrote in their paper.

“हमारे परिणाम ... यह दर्शाते हैं कि **बूंद के आवेश को नियंत्रित** करके **छींटे को नियंत्रित** करने की संभावना है,” शोधकर्ताओं ने अपने पेपर में लिखा।



## Ensuring the safety of elephants

A recent case of poaching has sparked concerns about trade in wildlife products

**GS Paper III: Environment**

### STATE OF PLAY

**Rohan Premkumar**  
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**D**uring the 1990s and early 2000s, the forest brigand, K. Veerappan, who held sway over the forests of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, was notorious for poaching elephants for ivory. While that is now a distant memory for most people, the recent poaching of an elephant in Pennagaram taluk in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu once again highlights how the illegal, lucrative trade in wildlife products continues to pose an existential threat to the safety of wild elephants.

On February 27, poachers shot dead an elephant and burnt the carcass in a bid to destroy evidence. The incident sent shock waves through the Forest Department, which discovered the carcass a few days later, and among animal lovers. The Department detained one of the alleged poachers, G. Senthil. A fortnight later, Senthil was found dead in the forest with a rifle on his remains. While officials have claimed that a handcuffed Senthil assaulted the forest staff and escaped, Senthil's family and activists have raised suspicions that he could have been the victim of an "extrajudicial killing".

Amid the outrage, the State government transferred the case to the Crime Branch-CID for inquiry. Responding to a petition from Senthil's wife seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Madras High Court ordered a second postmortem to be conducted on the suspected poacher's remains to ascertain the cause of his death.

The Forest Department



claims that poaching no longer poses a serious threat to the wild elephant population. However, with the elephant population supposedly on the rebound, there is concern that poaching groups could begin operating frequently once again in Tamil Nadu.

According to the Department's Elephant Death Audit Framework, introduced to ensure transparency about the cause of deaths of elephants, poaching accounted for less than 1% of all elephant deaths recorded in the State since 2010. Poaching accounts for 7.5% of all "unnatural deaths", which include poisoning, and train and road accidents. The last elephant death that was caused by poaching, reported on the portal, was said to have occurred in April 2024 in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, located at the junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats.

While the government insists that its conservation policies have bolstered the elephant population and successfully brought down poaching cases over the last two decades since Veerappan's killing, conservationists are worried. A 2019 report by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau highlighted oversights by the top brass of the Forest Department in the investigation of elephant poaching cases in a number of forest divisions including Megamalai, Valpa-

rai, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, and Theni. These include under-reporting of cases and the exclusion of buyers of ivory in the list of accused persons. Taking cognisance of the report, the Madras High Court in 2022 constituted a Special Investigation Team to probe 19 cases of elephant poaching in Tamil Nadu. In addition, a 2022 reply from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, sought under the Right to Information Act, 2005, stated that the elephant population had declined sharply between 2012 and 2017 – from over 4,000 to less than 2,800. In 2024, the government reported that the population had recovered to over 3,000 elephants.

Over the last few years, there have been concerns over the emergence of poaching groups that are targeting wildlife across the State, especially parts of the Nilgiris. There have been confirmed instances of the poaching of tigers in Tamil Nadu by groups from north India. Some cases of leopard poaching remain unsolved. The Forest Department is also said to be aware that inter-State poaching gangs are operating within the Nilgiris district, hunting wild game meat, and is working with counterparts in Kerala to clampdown on these groups.

According to activists, while poaching has drastically reduced thanks to increased surveillance by the Forest Department, structural reforms within the Department are needed. They say these will ensure transparency in the reporting of cases and better training of field staff to carry out thorough investigations to ensure convictions, thereby eliminating the need to use force to elicit confessions from accused persons.

## Ensuring the safety of elephants

### हाथियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना

• A recent case of poaching has sparked concerns about trade in wildlife products.

हाल ही में शिकार का एक मामला सामने आने से वन्यजीव उत्पादों के व्यापार को लेकर चिंता बढ़ गई है।

• During the 1990s and early 2000s, forest brigand K. Veerappan was notorious for poaching elephants for ivory in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

1990 के दशक और 2000 के शुरुआती वर्षों में के. वीरप्पन तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के जंगलों में हाथियों के दांत (अश्वदंत) के लिए उनके शिकार के लिए कुख्यात था।

• The recent poaching of an elephant in Pennagaram taluk, Dharmapuri district (Tamil Nadu), shows that the illegal trade in wildlife products still threatens wild elephants.

तमिलनाडु के धर्मपुरी जिले के पेननगरम तालुक में हाल ही में एक हाथी के शिकार से पता चलता है कि वन्यजीव उत्पादों का अवैध व्यापार अभी भी जंगली हाथियों के लिए खतरा बना हुआ है।

• On **February 27**, poachers **shot an elephant dead** and **burnt the carcass** to destroy evidence.

27 फरवरी को शिकारी ने एक हाथी को गोलियों से मार डाला और सबूत मिटाने के लिए शव को जला दिया।

• The Forest Department discovered the carcass a few days later and detained one of the alleged poachers, **G. Senthil**.

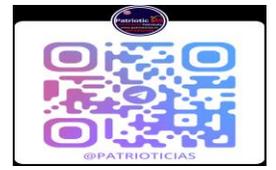
कुछ दिन बाद वन विभाग को शव मिला और उन्होंने एक आरोपी शिकारी जी. सेंथिल को हिरासत में लिया।



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- A **fortnight later**, Senthil was found dead in the forest with a **rifle** on his remains.  
दो हफ्ते बाद, सेंथिल जंगल में मृत पाया गया, और उसके पास से राइफल बरामद हुई।
- Officials claimed that a **handcuffed Senthil assaulted** the forest staff and escaped, but Senthil's family and activists suspect an **extrajudicial killing**.  
अधिकारियों ने दावा किया कि हथकड़ी लगे सेंथिल ने वन विभाग के कर्मचारियों पर हमला कर भागने की कोशिश की, लेकिन परिवार और कार्यकर्ताओं को संदेह है कि यह फर्जी मुठभेड़ हो सकती है।
- The **State government** transferred the case to **Crime Branch-CID** and the **Madras High Court** ordered a **second postmortem**.  
राज्य सरकार ने मामला क्राइम ब्रांच-सीआईडी को सौंपा और मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने दूसरी पोस्टमार्टम जांच के आदेश दिए।
- The Forest Department claims poaching no longer seriously threatens wild elephants.  
वन विभाग का दावा है कि अब शिकार जंगली हाथियों के लिए गंभीर खतरा नहीं है।
- However, concerns are rising that with elephant populations rebounding, poaching groups may become active again.  
हालांकि, चिंता है कि हाथियों की संख्या बढ़ने के साथ शिकारी समूह फिर से सक्रिय हो सकते हैं।
- According to the **Elephant Death Audit Framework**, introduced to ensure transparency, **poaching accounted for less than 1%** of all elephant deaths since **2010**.  
2010 से अब तक के हाथी मौतों के आंकड़े दर्शाने वाली "एलीफेंट डेथ ऑडिट फ्रेमवर्क" के अनुसार, शिकार 1% से भी कम मौतों के लिए जिम्मेदार है।
- Poaching accounts for **7.5% of all unnatural deaths**, which also include poisoning and accidents.  
शिकार को सभी "अप्राकृतिक मौतों" का 7.5% हिस्सा माना गया है, जिसमें जहर देने और दुर्घटनाएं शामिल हैं।
- The last reported case of elephant poaching was in **April 2024** at the **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve**, located between the **Eastern and Western Ghats**.  
हाथी शिकार का अंतिम मामला अप्रैल 2024 में सत्यमंगलम टाइगर रिजर्व (पूर्वी और पश्चिमी घाटों के संगम पर) में दर्ज किया गया था।
- The government claims its policies have helped boost the elephant population and reduce poaching since **Veerappan's killing**.  
सरकार का कहना है कि वीरप्पन की मौत के बाद से उसकी नीतियों ने हाथियों की संख्या बढ़ाने और शिकार कम करने में मदद की है।
- A **2019 report** by the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau** pointed out lapses in the Forest Department's handling of poaching cases in regions like **Megamalai, Valparai, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, and Theni**.

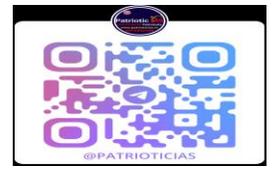
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2019 में वाइल्डलाइफ क्राइम कंट्रोल ब्यूरो की एक रिपोर्ट ने मेगमलाई, वलपारई, नीलगिरि, कोयंबटूर और थेनी में वन विभाग की लापरवाही को उजागर किया।

• These included underreporting cases and excluding **ivory buyers** from the list of accused. इसमें मामलों की कम रिपोर्टिंग और दांत खरीदने वालों को आरोपियों की सूची से बाहर रखने की बात कही गई थी।

• Taking note of this, the **Madras High Court** in **2022** formed a **Special Investigation Team (SIT)** to investigate **19 elephant poaching cases** in Tamil Nadu.

मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने 2022 में इस पर संज्ञान लेते हुए 19 हाथी शिकार मामलों की जांच के लिए विशेष जांच दल (SIT) गठित किया।

• A **2022 RTI** reply by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** stated that the elephant population dropped from **over 4,000 (2012)** to **less than 2,800 (2017)**.

2022 में सूचना के अधिकार (RTI) के तहत पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की जानकारी के अनुसार हाथियों की संख्या 2012 में 4,000 से घटकर 2017 में 2,800 से भी कम हो गई थी।

• In **2024**, the government reported the population had recovered to **over 3,000 elephants**. 2024 में, सरकार ने कहा कि हाथियों की संख्या 3,000 से अधिक हो गई है।

• Concerns remain about emerging poaching groups, especially in parts of **Nilgiris**. नीलगिरी क्षेत्र में विशेष रूप से उभरते शिकार समूहों को लेकर चिंता बनी हुई है।

• There have been confirmed tiger poaching cases by groups from **North India** and unsolved leopard poaching cases.

उत्तर भारत से आए समूहों द्वारा बाघ शिकार के मामलों की पुष्टि हुई है और तेंदुए के शिकार के कई मामले अभी भी अनसुलझे हैं।

• **Inter-State poaching gangs** are active in **Nilgiris**, hunting wild meat, and the Forest Department is collaborating with **Kerala** officials.

नीलगिरी जिले में अंतर-राज्यीय शिकार गिरोह सक्रिय हैं जो जंगली मांस का शिकार कर रहे हैं, और वन विभाग केरल के अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर कार्रवाई कर रहा है।

• Activists say that despite reduced poaching due to increased surveillance, **structural reforms** and better training are needed in the Forest Department.

कार्यकर्ताओं का कहना है कि ज्यादा निगरानी के चलते शिकार में कमी आई है, लेकिन संरचनात्मक सुधार और वन विभाग में बेहतर प्रशिक्षण जरूरी है।

• These changes would ensure transparency, improve investigation quality, and eliminate the need for **forceful confessions**.

ये बदलाव पारदर्शिता, जांच की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाएंगे और जबरदस्ती कबूलनामे की जरूरत को खत्म करेंगे।

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# Will aviation disputes be easier to resolve?

What does the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 entail? What is the Cape Town Convention and Protocol? Will the Bill make it easier for lessors to repossess aircraft? What has been the response from the leasing industry?

**GS Paper III: Aviation Sector**

**EXPLAINER**

**Jagrati Chandra**

**The story so far:**

Parliament last week passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025. The proposed legislation establishes a legal framework to resolve disputes between airlines and lessors over high-value aviation assets, such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines. The legislation aims to align India's aviation laws with international standards, in order to boost investor confidence amid rapid fleet expansion by IndiGo and Air India. Once enacted, the law will streamline processes, allowing lessors to repossess aircraft for unpaid dues, avoiding lengthy court proceedings like those seen with GoFirst's 2023 shutdown. However, the industry remains worried over the lack of ease of doing business as well as complicated tax laws in the country.

**What is the Bill and what are its provisions?**

The Bill implements the Cape Town Convention and Protocol, which is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations aviation watchdog, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in 2001 and signed by India in 2008 following a Cabinet approval. The Cape Town Convention and Protocol standardises transactions involving aviation assets such as aircraft and engines, and provides remedies for creditors in cases of financial default by airlines towards the lessors they rent aircraft from.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu said that the Bill will "provide a significant boost to the leasing industry, which is the need of the hour." This he said would be made possible by providing much needed legal clarity, while referring to past disputes such as those involving SpiceJet and the now defunct GoFirst, where the absence of a uniform legislation often led to challenges in interpreting the Cape Town Convention and Protocol by courts. It also led to difficulties for lessors in repossessing their assets rented to airlines. The Minister also said that airlines have informed him that such a legislation could bring down leasing costs by 8-10%, which he claimed would offer a trickle-down advantage for passengers through lower airfares. The Minister said that the Bill has the potential to promote domestic leasing in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) City in Ahmedabad.

The Bill designates the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as the Registry Authority for the purposes of the Convention. Such an authority is responsible for the registration and de-registration of aircraft. The Bill also empowers the DGCA to issue directions to implement the Convention. It lays down the obligations of debtors, such as airlines, which include submitting a record of dues to the DGCA. It also defines remedies available in case of a default in payment that includes the right to take back possession of the asset within a period of two calendar months or a mutually agreed upon period, whichever is earlier. The Bill will also have an overriding effect, which means that if there is any inconsistency between the Bill and any other law, the provisions of the Bill will prevail.

**Why has the Bill been introduced?**  
The Bill was introduced to address



**Complex legalities:** An abandoned Kingfisher Airlines aircraft rests near Knowledge City, Serilingampally in Hyderabad on February 24. SIDDHANT THAKUR

long-standing challenges in India's aviation sector, particularly the legal uncertainties faced by international lessors and creditors.

The necessity of such a law was witnessed at the time of the closure of Kingfisher Airlines and GoFirst as well as in disputes involving SpiceJet. Despite India's accession to the Cape Town Convention in 2008, the lack of implementing legislation meant that domestic laws, such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), often conflicted with international standards. This led to difficulties in repossessing aircraft during airline insolvencies, as seen in the case of GoFirst (2023). These inconsistencies increased risks for lessors and lowered India's compliance score on the Aviation Working Group's (AWG) Cape Town Convention Index (previously at 50, now improved to 62, with a target of 90).

The Bill aims to resolve these issues by providing legal clarity, aligning India with global norms, and reducing the financial burden on airlines.

For instance, during the shutdown of GoFirst, which sought voluntary insolvency before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in May 2023, the court granted the airline protection under moratorium from adverse actions by lessors, lenders, airports and oil

companies. This prevented the lessors from de-registering their aircraft and removing the planes from India within the permissible five-day period.

Later, they also faced challenges with respect to accessing aircraft for carrying out maintenance to ensure airworthiness, and also found themselves repaying exorbitant dues owed by the airline to airport operators for expenses incurred on counter and office space, ground and cargo handling apart from aircraft parking costs.

**How has the decision been received by the leasing industry?**

The Bill has been broadly welcomed by the industry as far as disputes and concerns over ability to repossess aircraft go, though some say it is like "closing the stable door after the horse has bolted," referring to the challenges posed by GoFirst, SpiceJet and Kingfisher Airways. Executives in the international leasing industry explain that the claims promoted of reduced leasing costs as a result of the proposed law are not entirely true as the creditworthiness of an airline, its financials and volume of orders are the real driving factors, especially for airlines like Air India and IndiGo, as the industry is bullish about their growth prospects. However, smaller airlines and start-ups

may benefit through a 10% rebate in interest rates offered by the EXIM bank for financing of aircraft leasing.

Similarly, airline executives state that claims of a likely respite in airfares are exaggerated as ticket prices are driven by market forces of demand and supply for air travel, and that costs incurred by airlines don't drive the fares.

However, the Bill will lower the risk of doing future business in India, which will impact an airline's net income.

But the industry is worried about India's complicated taxation regime. Many lessors of a large airline have been speaking in hushed tones about IT notices being slapped on them for operating through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) to lease airplanes as they are not allowed to have a permanent establishment in India.

The industry feels the government is arm-twisting international lessors to set up a local arm at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, where the government aims to create its own ecosystem for domestic leasing.

An executive from a major leasing company, speaking anonymously, described the Indian taxation regime as "whimsical, suspicious, and inconsistent," citing these issues as key reasons for the lukewarm response from the leasing industry to GIFT City.

**THE GIST**

Parliament last week passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025. The proposed legislation establishes a legal framework to resolve disputes between airlines and lessors over high-value aviation assets, such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines.

The Bill was introduced to address long-standing challenges in India's aviation sector, particularly the legal uncertainties faced by international lessors and creditors.

Executives in the international leasing industry explain that the claims promoted of reduced leasing costs as a result of the proposed law are not entirely true as the creditworthiness of an airline, its financials and volume of orders are the real driving factors, especially for airlines like Air India and IndiGo.



## Will aviation disputes be easier to resolve?

### क्या विमानन विवादों का समाधान करना आसान होगा?

• Parliament last week passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025.

• संसद ने पिछले सप्ताह एयरक्राफ्ट ऑब्जेक्ट्स में हितों की सुरक्षा विधेयक, 2025 पारित किया।

• The proposed legislation establishes a **legal framework** to resolve disputes between **airlines** and **lessors** over high-value aviation assets like **aircraft, helicopters, and engines**.

• प्रस्तावित विधेयक एयरलाइनों और लीजर्स के बीच विमान, हेलिकॉप्टर, और इंजन जैसे उच्च मूल्य वाले विमानन संपत्तियों पर विवादों के समाधान के लिए एक कानूनी ढांचा स्थापित करता है।

• It aims to align India's aviation laws with **international standards** to boost **investor confidence** amid rapid **fleet expansion** by IndiGo and Air India.

• यह भारत के विमानन कानूनों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुरूप बनाने का लक्ष्य रखता है ताकि इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया द्वारा तेजी से हो रहे बेड़े के विस्तार के बीच निवेशकों का विश्वास बढ़ाया जा सके।

• Once enacted, the law will streamline processes, allowing **lessors** to **repossess aircraft** for unpaid dues without lengthy court proceedings like those during **GoFirst's 2023 shutdown**.

• विधेयक लागू होने के बाद यह प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाएगा और गोपहले के 2023 के बंद जैसे लंबे न्यायिक मामलों से बचते हुए बकाया भुगतान न होने पर लीजर्स को विमान पुनः प्राप्त करने की अनुमति देगा।

• However, the industry remains concerned over the **lack of ease of doing business** and **complicated tax laws** in India.

• हालांकि, उद्योग में अब भी भारत में कारोबार करने में आसानी की कमी और जटिल कर कानूनों को लेकर चिंता बनी हुई है।

## What is the Bill and what are its provisions?

### विधेयक क्या है और इसके प्रावधान क्या हैं?

• The Bill implements the **Cape Town Convention and Protocol**, an international treaty adopted by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** in **2001** and signed by India in **2008**.

• यह विधेयक केप टाउन कन्वेंशन और प्रोटोकॉल को लागू करता है, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन संगठन (ICAO) द्वारा 2001 में अपनाया गया एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि है और जिसे भारत ने 2008 में हस्ताक्षरित किया।

• The Convention standardises transactions involving aviation assets like **aircraft and engines**, and provides remedies to **creditors** in case of **financial default** by airlines.



• यह संधि विमान और इंजन जैसी विमानन संपत्तियों से जुड़ी लेन-देन को मानकीकृत करती है और एयरलाइनों द्वारा वित्तीय डिफॉल्ट की स्थिति में ऋणदाताओं को समाधान प्रदान करती है।

• Speaking in the **Rajya Sabha**, **Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu** said the Bill would “provide a **significant boost** to the leasing industry, which is the **need of the hour**.”

• राज्यसभा में बोलते हुए, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने कहा कि यह विधेयक लीजिंग उद्योग को महत्वपूर्ण बढ़ावा देगा, जो वर्तमान समय की आवश्यकता है।

• He added that it provides **legal clarity**, citing past disputes like **SpiceJet** and **GoFirst**, where the lack of uniform law made interpretation of the Convention difficult for courts.

• उन्होंने कहा कि यह विधेयक कानूनी स्पष्टता प्रदान करता है, और **स्पाइसजेट** तथा **गोफर्स्ट** जैसे पुराने विवादों का हवाला दिया, जहां एक समान कानून की अनुपस्थिति में अदालतों के लिए संधि की व्याख्या करना मुश्किल हो गया था।

• Lessors faced difficulty in **repossessing** their assets rented to airlines.

• एयरलाइनों को किराए पर दिए गए विमानन संपत्तियों को वापस लेने में लीजर्स को कठिनाई हुई।

• Airlines told the Minister that such legislation could reduce **leasing costs** by **8-10%**, which may lead to **lower airfares** for passengers.

• एयरलाइनों ने मंत्री को बताया कि ऐसा कानून लीजिंग लागत को **8-10%** तक घटा सकता है, जिससे यात्रियों के लिए हवाई किराए कम हो सकते हैं।

• The Minister also said the Bill can promote **domestic leasing** in **GIFT City, Ahmedabad**.

• मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि यह विधेयक अहमदाबाद के GIFT सिटी में घरेलू लीजिंग को बढ़ावा दे सकता है।

## What are the roles and powers defined in the Bill?

### विधेयक में परिभाषित भूमिकाएं और शक्तियाँ क्या हैं?

• The Bill designates the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** as the **Registry Authority** under the Convention.

• विधेयक नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) को इस संधि के तहत पंजीकरण प्राधिकरण नियुक्त करता है।

• This authority will manage **registration** and **de-registration** of aircraft.

• यह प्राधिकरण विमान का पंजीकरण और पंजीकरण रद्द करने का कार्य करेगा।

• The Bill also empowers the **DGCA** to issue **directions** to implement the Convention.

• यह विधेयक DGCA को संधि को लागू करने के लिए निर्देश जारी करने की शक्ति भी देता है।



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- It defines obligations of **debtors** (airlines), like submitting **records of dues** to DGCA.
- यह ऋणकर्ताओं (एयरलाइनों) की जिम्मेदारियाँ भी निर्धारित करता है, जैसे कि **बकाया रिकॉर्ड** को DGCA को सौंपना।

- In case of **payment default**, remedies include the right to **take back possession** of the asset within **two calendar months** or a **mutually agreed period**, whichever is earlier.
- **भुगतान डिफॉल्ट** की स्थिति में समाधान में यह अधिकार शामिल है कि **दो कैलेंडर महीनों** या **आपसी सहमति से तय समय** (जो पहले हो) के भीतर संपत्ति को **पुनः प्राप्त किया जा सकता है**।

- The Bill has an **overriding effect**, meaning if it conflicts with any other law, the **provisions of this Bill will prevail**.
- इस विधेयक का **प्रमुख प्रभाव** होगा, यानी अगर इसका किसी अन्य कानून से टकराव होता है, तो **इस विधेयक के प्रावधानों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी**।

## Why has the Bill been introduced?

### विधेयक क्यों लाया गया है?

- The Bill was introduced to address **long-standing challenges** in India's aviation sector, particularly the **legal uncertainties** faced by **international lessors and creditors**.
- यह विधेयक भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से चली आ रही **चुनौतियों**, विशेष रूप से **अंतरराष्ट्रीय लीजर्स और ऋणदाताओं** द्वारा झेली जा रही **कानूनी अनिश्चितताओं** को दूर करने के लिए लाया गया।
- The necessity of such a law was witnessed at the time of the **closure of Kingfisher Airlines and GoFirst** as well as in disputes involving **SpiceJet**.
- इस प्रकार के कानून की आवश्यकता **किंगफिशर एयरलाइंस और गोफर्स्ट** के **बंद होने** के समय तथा **स्पाइसजेट** से जुड़े विवादों में देखी गई।
- Despite India's **accession to the Cape Town Convention in 2008**, the **lack of implementing legislation** meant that domestic laws like the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** often conflicted with international standards.
- भारत द्वारा **2008 में केप टाउन कन्वेंशन में शामिल होने** के बावजूद, **कार्यान्वयन कानून की कमी** के कारण **दिवालियापन और दिवालिया संहिता (IBC)** जैसे घरेलू कानून अक्सर **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों** से टकराते थे।
- This led to difficulties in **repossessing aircraft during airline insolvencies**, as seen in the case of **GoFirst (2023)**.
- इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि **एयरलाइन दिवालियापन के दौरान विमान पुनः प्राप्त करने में कठिनाई हुई**, जैसा कि **गोफर्स्ट (2023)** के मामले में देखा गया।
- These inconsistencies increased **risks for lessors** and lowered India's **compliance score** on the **Aviation Working Group's (AWG) Cape Town Convention Index** (previously at **50**, now improved to **62**, with a target of **90**).



• इन विसंगतियों ने लीजर्स के लिए जोखिम बढ़ा दिए और भारत के एविएशन वर्किंग ग्रुप (AWG) के केप टाउन कन्वेंशन इंडेक्स पर अनुपालन स्कोर को घटा दिया (पहले 50, अब 62, लक्ष्य 90)।

• The Bill aims to resolve these issues by providing **legal clarity**, aligning India with **global norms**, and reducing the **financial burden** on airlines.

• यह विधेयक कानूनी स्पष्टता प्रदान करके, भारत को वैश्विक मानदंडों के अनुरूप बनाकर और एयरलाइनों पर वित्तीय बोझ कम करके इन समस्याओं को हल करना चाहता है।

• For instance, during the shutdown of **GoFirst**, which sought **voluntary insolvency** before the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** in **May 2023**, the court granted the airline **protection under moratorium** from adverse actions by lessors, lenders, airports and oil companies.

• उदाहरण के लिए, गोफर्स्ट ने मई 2023 में राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून न्यायाधिकरण (NCLT) में स्वैच्छिक दिवालियापन की याचिका दायर की, और न्यायालय ने कंपनी को मोराटोरियम के तहत सुरक्षा प्रदान की, जिससे लीजर्स, ऋणदाताओं, हवाईअड्डों और तेल कंपनियों की कार्रवाई से राहत मिली।

• This prevented the lessors from **de-registering their aircraft** and removing the planes from India within the **permissible five-day period**.

• इससे लीजर्स अपने विमानों का पंजीकरण रद्द करने और पांच दिन की निर्धारित अवधि में भारत से विमान हटाने से वंचित रह गए।

• Later, they also faced challenges with respect to **accessing aircraft for maintenance**, and had to repay **exorbitant dues** owed by the airline to airport operators for **counter and office space, ground and cargo handling, and aircraft parking costs**.

• बाद में उन्हें विमान के रखरखाव के लिए पहुंच बनाने में भी मुश्किलें हुईं और एयरलाइन द्वारा हवाईअड्डा ऑपरेटरों को काउंटर और कार्यालय स्थान, ग्राउंड और कार्गो हैंडलिंग तथा विमान पार्किंग लागतों के लिए बकाया अत्यधिक भुगतान करना पड़ा।

## How has the decision been received by the leasing industry?

### लीजिंग उद्योग ने इस निर्णय को कैसे स्वीकार किया है?

• The Bill has been **broadly welcomed** by the industry as far as **disputes and concerns over ability to repossess aircraft** go.

• उद्योग द्वारा इस विधेयक का व्यापक स्वागत किया गया है, खासकर विमान पुनः प्राप्त करने की क्षमता और विवादों के समाधान के संदर्भ में।

• Though some say it is like “**closing the stable door after the horse has bolted**,” referring to challenges posed by **GoFirst, SpiceJet, and Kingfisher Airways**.

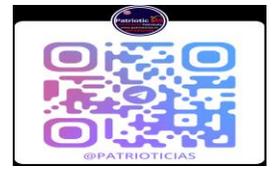
• हालांकि कुछ का कहना है कि यह "घोड़ा भाग जाने के बाद अस्तबल का दरवाजा बंद करने" जैसा है, जो गोफर्स्ट, स्पाइसजेट, और किंगफिशर एयरवेज द्वारा उत्पन्न चुनौतियों की ओर इशारा करता है।



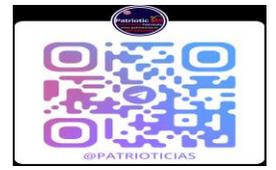
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- Executives in the **international leasing industry** explain that the claims of **reduced leasing costs** as a result of the proposed law are not entirely true.
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय लीजिंग उद्योग के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि प्रस्तावित कानून के कारण लीजिंग लागत में कमी के दावे पूरी तरह सही नहीं हैं।
- They say that the **creditworthiness of an airline**, its **financials** and **volume of orders** are the real driving factors, especially for airlines like **Air India** and **IndiGo**.
- उनका कहना है कि किसी एयरलाइन की **क्रेडिट रेटिंग**, उसकी **वित्तीय स्थिति** और **ऑर्डर की मात्रा** ही असली कारक होते हैं, खासकर **एयर इंडिया** और **इंडिगो** जैसी एयरलाइनों के लिए।
- However, **smaller airlines and start-ups** may benefit through a **10% rebate** in interest rates offered by the **EXIM bank** for **financing of aircraft leasing**.
- हालांकि, **छोटी एयरलाइनों और स्टार्टअप्स** को **EXIM बैंक** द्वारा **विमान लीजिंग के वित्तपोषण पर 10% की छूट** से लाभ मिल सकता है।
- Similarly, airline executives state that claims of a **likely respite in airfares** are exaggerated as **ticket prices are driven by market forces of demand and supply**, not **airline costs**.
- इसी तरह, एयरलाइन अधिकारियों का कहना है कि **हवाई किराए में संभावित राहत** के दावे **बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर** बताए जा रहे हैं, क्योंकि **हवाई टिकटों की कीमतें मांग और आपूर्ति** जैसी बाजार शक्तियों पर निर्भर करती हैं, न कि एयरलाइन की लागत पर।
- However, the Bill will **lower the risk of doing future business** in India, which will **impact an airline's net income**.
- हालांकि, यह विधेयक भारत में भविष्य में **व्यापार करने के जोखिम को कम करेगा**, जिससे **एयरलाइनों की कुल आय पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा**।
- But the industry is worried about **India's complicated taxation regime**.
- लेकिन उद्योग को भारत के **जटिल कर व्यवस्था** को लेकर चिंता है।
- Many lessors of a large airline have been quietly complaining about **IT notices** being slapped on them for operating through **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)**, as they are **not allowed to have a permanent establishment** in India.
- एक बड़ी एयरलाइन के कई लीजर्स चुपचाप यह शिकायत कर रहे हैं कि वे **स्पेशल पर्पज़ व्हीकल्स (SPVs)** के जरिए काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन उन्हें भारत में **स्थायी प्रतिष्ठान रखने की अनुमति नहीं है**, और उन पर **आईटी नोटिस** भेजे जा रहे हैं।
- The industry feels the government is **arm-twisting international lessors** to set up a local arm at **GIFT City, Gandhinagar**, where the government aims to create its own **ecosystem for domestic leasing**.



• उद्योग का मानना है कि सरकार अंतरराष्ट्रीय लीजर्स पर दबाव बना रही है कि वे गांधीनगर के GIFT सिटी में स्थानीय शाखा खोलें, जहां सरकार घरेलू लीजिंग के लिए अपना इकोसिस्टम बनाना चाहती है।

• An executive from a major leasing company, speaking anonymously, described the **Indian taxation regime** as “whimsical, suspicious, and inconsistent,” citing these as key reasons for the lukewarm response to GIFT City.

• एक प्रमुख लीजिंग कंपनी के एक कार्यकारी ने गुमनाम रूप से भारत की कर व्यवस्था को "मनमौजी, संदिग्ध और असंगत" बताया और इन्हें GIFT सिटी के प्रति हल्के रुख के मुख्य कारण बताया।

## RBI plans market-based route to securitise bad bank assets

**GS Paper III: Bad Banks**

**Ashokamithran T.**

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to introduce securitisation of stressed assets via market mechanism to ease the burden of stressed assets on the lenders.

The policy will enable lenders with stressed assets to bundle into tradeable securities to share the risk of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

“It is proposed to enable securitisation of stressed assets through market-based mechanism. This is in addition to the existing ARC (Asset Reconstruction Company) route under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAE-



**Breathing easy:** The draft is aimed at reducing the burden of non-performing assets on the lenders. REUTERS

SI) Act, 2002,” RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said.

The securitisation process will be performed by a resolution manager (RM) who will be appointed by a special purpose entity (SPE), the RBI proposed in a draft. The banking regulator also proposed valuation methods, capital requirements for investors,

disclosures to be made, among others, in the draft document. The securitised asset can be sold to an SPE only for cash.

The RBI also proposed re-securitisation, synthetic securitisation, farm credit, education loan, fraudulent account and wilful default, among others, will not be eligible for securitisation.

**RBI plans market-based route to securitise bad bank assets**

**आरबीआई की खराब बैंक संपत्तियों के सेक्यूरिटाइजेशन के लिए बाजार आधारित योजना**

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to introduce securitisation of stressed assets via market mechanism to ease the burden of stressed assets on the lenders.**

**भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने ऋणदाताओं पर तनावग्रस्त संपत्तियों के बोझ को कम करने के लिए बाजार तंत्र के माध्यम से तनावग्रस्त**

**संपत्तियों के सेक्यूरिटाइजेशन की योजना प्रस्तावित की है।**

- The policy will enable lenders with stressed assets to bundle into tradeable securities to share the risk of **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**.

यह नीति तनावग्रस्त संपत्तियों वाले ऋणदाताओं को उन्हें व्यापार योग्य प्रतिभूतियों में बदलने में सक्षम बनाएगी ताकि गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियों (एनपीए) के जोखिम को साझा किया जा सके।



- “It is proposed to enable securitisation of stressed assets through **market-based mechanism**. This is in addition to the existing **ARC (Asset Reconstruction Company)** route under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002**,” RBI Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** said.  
आरबीआई गवर्नर **संजय मल्होत्रा** ने कहा, “**बाजार आधारित तंत्र** के माध्यम से तनावग्रस्त संपत्तियों के सेक्यूरिटाइजेशन की अनुमति देने का प्रस्ताव है। यह वर्तमान में प्रचलित **एसेट रिकंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी (ARC)** मार्ग के अतिरिक्त है, जो **SARFAESI अधिनियम, 2002** के तहत आता है।”
- The securitisation process will be performed by a **Resolution Manager (RM)** who will be appointed by a **Special Purpose Entity (SPE)**, the RBI proposed in a draft.  
आरबीआई के मसौदे में प्रस्तावित किया गया है कि सेक्यूरिटाइजेशन की प्रक्रिया एक **रिज़ॉल्यूशन मैनेजर (आरएम)** द्वारा की जाएगी, जिसे एक **स्पेशल पर्पज एंटीटी (एसपीई)** द्वारा नियुक्त किया जाएगा।
- The banking regulator also proposed **valuation methods, capital requirements for investors, disclosures to be made**, among others, in the draft document.  
बैंकिंग नियामक ने मसौदा दस्तावेज़ में **मूल्यांकन विधियाँ, निवेशकों के लिए पूंजी आवश्यकताएँ, प्रकटीकरण** आदि का भी प्रस्ताव दिया है।
- The securitised asset can be sold to an **SPE only for cash**.  
सेक्यूरिटाइज की गई संपत्ति को केवल **नकद के बदले में एसपीई को बेचा** जा सकता है।
- The RBI also proposed **re-securitisation, synthetic securitisation, farm credit, education loan, fraudulent account and wilful default**, among others, will **not be eligible** for securitisation.  
आरबीआई ने यह भी प्रस्ताव दिया कि **री-सेक्यूरिटाइजेशन, सिंथेटिक सेक्यूरिटाइजेशन, कृषि ऋण, शिक्षा ऋण, धोखाधड़ी खाते और जानबूझकर डिफॉल्ट** सहित कई श्रेणियाँ सेक्यूरिटाइजेशन के लिए पात्र नहीं होंगी।



# RBI mulls to expand, boost co-lending

GS Paper III: Banking System

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a draft framework for co-lending arrangements between all regulated entities, as the current regulation deals only with co-lending between banks and non-banking financial companies.

“The extant guidelines on co-lending are presently applicable only to arrangements between banks and NBFCs. Moreover, they are restricted to priority sector loans. To exploit the huge potential of such lending arrangements, it is proposed to extend them to all regulated entities and to all loans - priority sector or otherwise,” said RBI Go-

vernor Sanjay Mahotra as part of additional regulatory steps on Wednesday.

Co-lending Arrangement (CLA) involves two financial institutions eligible under RBI directions, issuing loans based on a predetermined proportion of lending. Banks that co-lend to priority sector can claim priority sector status.

The guidelines will now be applicable for all commercial banks, NBFCs and will exclude RRBs, SFBs and Local Area Banks. The RBI proposed the credit policy of the banks that take part in co-lending must disclose the targeted customer segment, terms and conditions of loan and internal limit on borrower portfolio, among others.

entities and to all loans – priority sector or otherwise,” said RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra as part of additional regulatory steps on Wednesday.

आरबीआई गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा ने बुधवार को अतिरिक्त नियामकीय उपायों के तहत कहा, “वर्तमान में सह-ऋण पर दिशानिर्देश केवल बैंकों और एनबीएफसी के बीच व्यवस्था पर लागू हैं। इसके अलावा, ये केवल प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र ऋणों तक सीमित हैं। इस तरह की ऋण व्यवस्था की अपार संभावनाओं का लाभ

RBI mulls to expand, boost co-lending

आरबीआई सह-ऋण

विस्तार और बढ़ावा देने पर विचार कर रहा है

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a draft framework for co-lending arrangements between all regulated entities, as the current regulation deals only with co-lending between banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने सभी विनियमित संस्थाओं के बीच सह-ऋण व्यवस्था के लिए मसौदा ढांचा प्रस्तावित किया है, क्योंकि वर्तमान नियम केवल बैंकों और गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों (NBFCs) के बीच सह-ऋण तक सीमित है।

• “The extant guidelines on co-lending are presently applicable only to arrangements between banks and NBFCs. Moreover, they are restricted to priority sector loans. To exploit the huge potential of such lending arrangements, it is proposed to extend them to all regulated



उठाने के लिए, इन्हें सभी विनियमित संस्थाओं और सभी प्रकार के ऋणों – प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र या अन्य पर लागू करने का प्रस्ताव है।”

- **Co-lending Arrangement (CLA)** involves two financial institutions eligible under RBI directions, issuing loans based on a **predetermined proportion** of lending.  
सह-ऋण व्यवस्था (CLA) में आरबीआई के निर्देशों के अंतर्गत पात्र दो वित्तीय संस्थाएं शामिल होती हैं, जो पूर्व निर्धारित अनुपात के आधार पर ऋण प्रदान करती हैं।
- Banks that co-lend to **priority sector** can claim **priority sector status**.  
जो बैंक प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र को सह-ऋण देते हैं वे प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र की स्थिति का दावा कर सकते हैं।
- The guidelines will now be applicable for **all commercial banks, NBFCs** and will **exclude RRBs, SFBs and Local Area Banks**.  
अब ये दिशानिर्देश सभी वाणिज्यिक बैंकों, एनबीएफसी पर लागू होंगे और क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक (RRBs), लघु वित्त बैंक (SFBs) और स्थानीय क्षेत्रीय बैंक को इससे बाहर रखा जाएगा।
- The RBI proposed the **credit policy** of the banks that take part in co-lending must disclose the **targeted customer segment, terms and conditions of loan, and internal limit on borrower portfolio**, among others.  
आरबीआई ने प्रस्ताव दिया है कि सह-ऋण में भाग लेने वाले बैंकों की क्रेडिट नीति में लक्षित ग्राहक वर्ग, ऋण की शर्तें और नियम, और उधारकर्ता पोर्टफोलियो पर आंतरिक सीमा सहित अन्य विवरणों का प्रकटीकरण आवश्यक होगा।