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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

19 APRIL 2025

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19_04_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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पाकिस्तान के अहमदिया अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के व्यक्ति की भीड़ ने पीट-पीट कर हत्या कर दी



The *devasthan*, a stone memorial built over generations to the forefathers of the Bhill Adivasis of the Dangas, at the centre of which there is now a Shivaling and a Nandi bull. VIJAY SONEJI

PATRIOTIC



The peculiar political position of chieftains of the Dang

In south Gujarat's hilly forests of the Dang district, erstwhile kings and their kinspeople continue to try to negotiate for privileges and respect within the Indian Union. Alongside, the BJP's carefully constructed rhetoric around tribal identity resonates with the Bhils, finds **Abhinav Lakshman**

Just outside of Ahwa town, in the centre of the Dang district, 37-year-old Kiransinh Panwar steps out of his home. It's a ground floor house with a tin shed on its terrace, between a tyre shop and a construction site, off the Ahwa main road. Dressed in a crisp white shirt and dark grey trousers, he sits on a plastic chair on his porch. His white SUV is parked beside him, sporting a board on the windshield. King of Dang, Gadwhi State, he declares, an emblem of a man drawing his bow and aiming his arrow on each side of the titular assertion.

About 15 kilometres north, deep inside the Dang's forests in Gadwhi village, Gulsinhbhai Ullashbhai Panwar, 75, also sits on a porch, but of an under-construction house, his back to his bare cement walls. He wears a polycot checked shirt with a pen tucked into his breast pocket. Another SUV is parked there with the same emblem. It's a house that Kiransinh has been building for the last five-odd years.

Gulsinhbhai is one of Gadwhi's *naiks*, a hereditary title accorded to leaders of small groups of villages of the erstwhile kingdoms of the Dang. He puts on his spectacles and, with a heavy sigh, begins, "Our forefathers protected these forests from invaders for centuries. They were tricked." Gulsinhbhai asserts that after India got independence, the tribal kings were co-opted into the Union without their consent, the forest lands they owned were taken away from them, and a paltry sum was given yearly.

Over the years, the rulers of the Dang's have questioned various aspects: the amount of compensation, the unilateral settlement, and the disrespectful way in which they say they were treated. While the Instrument of Accession for other rulers addressed them as "His Highness", the Dang's rulers, in a government resolution, were called "illiterate" and people unaware of their "financial obligations", who were "likely to squander the whole amount [of monetary compensation] in no time". While the other rulers were "guaranteed" their "titles, rights to succession, and privileges", the government resolution for the Dang's rulers was meant to "settle their status, rights, and privileges".

Old wounds

The five Bhil Adivasi chieftains of the Dang's, of whom Kiransinh is one, spend most of their time in the villages that were once their kingdoms, deep inside Dang's forests, where electricity is erratic, water for drinking and irrigation is a problem for half the year, and pitch roads are still reaching. The erstwhile kingdoms are today the villages of Gadwhi; Pimpri, where Trimakrao Panwar is the chieftain; Dahar, where Tapat Rao Panwar is the head; Linga, where Chhatrasinh Suryavanshi is in charge; and Vasurana, where Dhanrajsinh Suryavanshi is in command. Here, their forefathers ruled over 1,683.5 sq km of forested hills full of teak trees. Now, the villages are run by panchayats.

Every year, a three-day festival called the Dang Darbar is held just before Holi. Here, the chieftains arrive in chariots and the district administration gives them the honour of kings. Kiransinh says of the Dang Darbar, "We have been reduced to being treated like kings for just a day once a year, because we are Adivasi, and our forefathers could not read and write."

At the Darbar, the Gujarat government, through the Governor, ceremonially hands over the political pensions. This "a permanent payment in lieu of the rights and privileges of the Dang's chiefs, *naiks* and their relatives", as de-

scribed in government documents. At the Darbar this year, the final instalment for the 2024-25 payment was made to the tribal leaders, bringing the total payout for the year to 414.73 lakh, to be split among the five chieftains.

The region was merged with the Bombay Presidency through an order of the then Governor-General, Lord Mountbatten, in January 1948. In 1954, the Government of Bombay (the political entity that governed the Bombay Presidency, which subsequently evolved into the State of Bombay that was, in 1960, restructured into the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat), under then Chief Minister Morarji Desai, decided that the forest, of which the Bhils of Dang claimed ownership and collected rent from, was the property of the State. "What happened to the Dang is a betrayal," says Dhanrajsinh, 69.

Until 1971, rulers of erstwhile princely States were given yearly payments. At the time of accession to the Indian Union, they had been given the assurance of all their private property. In 1948, the Gaekwad of Baroda, which was the closest kingdom to Dang, took home 426.5 lakh. However, in 1954, the tribal rulers of the Dang got about 11.22 lakh to be split among the chieftains and their relatives, comprising 700-odd people at the time. The government, in an order, said, "The Collector of Dang should call the principal Chiefs and tell them what the Government has decided to do."

At the Dang Darbar this year, Dhanrajsinh rose to address the crowd: "We are citizens of the Government of India, and we fully respect the Constitution. But for the sacrifices of our forefathers and our rights, we are ready to take the British to human rights bodies, if need be." For the past two years, the Governor has not been physically present, he says.

Rights and privileges

In the past, the Bhils have taken the government to court over the Indian government's "unilateral" decision to co-opt them into the Indian state, but the courts ruled it to be "in public interest". The efforts to organise legally were spearheaded by Shramik Vikas Samsthan, founded by veteran Congress leader and former Gujarat Minister Sanat Mehta.

Since Gujarat was carved out as a separate State, Dang district has voted for the Congress, with the BJP getting the seat twice in a row only after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister.

In the last five years, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling political party at the Centre and in Gujarat, has strategised to woo India's Sche-



Dhanrajsinh Suryavanshi (right) with Kiransinh Panwar (second from right) in Dang district, Gujarat. VIJAY SONELIA

duled Tribe voters. As a first step, they are building a narrative of tribal identity by employing the histories of Adivasi resistance movements. The BJP situates Adivasis as an inseparable part of "Bharatiya *sabhyata* and *sanskriti* (Indian civilisation and culture)", by pushing stories of their rebellions as resistance to British and Muslim invaders, though the movements were against oppression of different kinds, including against caste.

The Dang district, whose southern boundary marks the border between Gujarat and Maharashtra, is a region that oral histories claim was once part of Dandakaranya, the forests mentioned in Hindu epic *Ramayana*. Here, Lord Ram, his wife Sita, and brother Lakshman are believed to have visited during their exile.

In 1947, just as the British were packing up in India, those in power took the position that Dang should be independent. The then Union Home Minister, Sardar Patel, promised that the budget and development of the Dang would be treated separately from the Bombay Presidency.

At the Dang Darbar, Dhanrajsinh said, "Baroda's Gaekwads paid us to protect them from invaders. We resisted the British, who were forced to recognise our sovereignty and execute a lease with us for the use of our forests in 1842. As of 1893, the British paid us 17,878 per annum in rent, which comes to over 11.07 crore in today's times. We don't even get 10% of the money today."

In 1842, the Collector of Maharashtra's Khandesh region executed the forest lease that Dhanrajsinh spoke about at the Dang Darbar. However, by 1878, the British began administering the district, putting it in a "peculiar political position", given that it was dealt with as a "foreign territory" under the Foreign Jurisdiction (India) Order.

The origins of the 1954 resolution lay in a letter written to the Government of Bombay by the Collector of Dang in January 1950, which referred to their forest ownership. In the letter, the then Collector, K.T. Satarawala, wrote, "As long as the present loose system is continued, I see the very real danger of mistaken ideas about possession of land, etc. entering the mind of the Chiefs. It may, some future date, be made to appear to them that all the lands in Dang belong to them because the government collects the revenue for these lands on their behalf."

Forests of the past and present

A month has passed since Dhanrajsinh's address at the Dang Darbar, during which he had said they'd launch a protest in April if the government did not "decide on their rights" to the forest, their rights of succession, and higher compensation.

Now, the thick teak forests are golden brown, leaves barely hanging on to their branches. The temperature has started to soar. It is the day before Ram Navami and, from the district headquarters of Ahwa to deep into Dang's forests, the highways are lined with flags of the BJP. There is no visible sign of agitation on the streets of Ahwa.

Under the banyan tree, outside his government-provided house, Dhanrajsinh says, "How were our forefathers any different from the over 500 kings that were offered Instruments of Accession to sign? Like the other kings and queens, why were we not allowed to retain ownership of our forests? That was our property. We were not even consulted for the settlement of our political rights." Gulsinhbhai complains, "Today, we are not allowed to use anything apart from our agricultural lands. We have no access to the forests, whereas cooperative societies are being permitted to cut down trees."

Officials in the Dang-Ahwa Collectorate say that while the heirs of the erstwhile kings, *naiks*, *Dhanabands* (brothers-in-arms) had been given ownership of large swathes of agricultural land in the district in the 1970s, they do not have free access to the forests.

The offices of the District Collector at Dang-Ahwa and the Resident Additional Collector were unable to confirm whether the chiefs have forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, meant to protect the rights of Scheduled Tribes and forest-dwelling communities to use forest resources.

"Not only did our forefathers resist invaders, but they also ensured the survival of forests by stopping forest fires. These fires would originate from poachers trying to smoke their prey out," Gulsinhbhai continues. Government records from 1954 showed that the Forest Department was paying the Dang's chiefs in "shela (cloth)" and "silver bangles" for "fire protection".

Education and empowerment

At Kiransinh's family home in Ahwa, the district headquarter, where the chief lives, his daughter Rashmita Kiransinh Panwar, 20, is on a semester break from college. "I'm very proud of my father for always encouraging me to study," says Rashmita, who went to a Christian missionary school for the first 10 years of her life.

Pursuing a postgraduate degree in Economics from the M.R. Desai Arts and Commerce College in Chikhli, she is determined to make her own path in life. "In the 11th standard, my teachers advised that an Economics degree would help me crack bank jobs and also give me skills to start my own business if I wanted to," she says, adding that she lives in a hostel in Chikhli to avoid the commute from Ahwa, 34 kilometres away. "I feel good that my father is a king, but I'm careful not to be arrogant about it. After all, it is just for a day that he is treated as a king," she says. A rosary sits on the windowsill of their home. "I am Christian, but my father is not," she says.

The prominent religious buildings in Ahwa town are churches, but on the outskirts, BJP flags are accompanied by road signs pointing to the closest Hanuman temples. These are built with support from Shree Ramkrishna Welfare Trust (SRWT), which is run by BJP's Rajya Sabha member and diamond merchant Govind Dholakia.

Over 93% of Dang's population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes, and more than 90.43% of them identify themselves as followers of Hinduism, as per the 2011 Census, up from 89.78% in 2001. About 9.03% of the district's STs follow Christianity, a drop from 9.87% registered in the 2001 Census.

Over the last few years, the SRWT has been trying to deliver on a promise to build 311 Hanuman temples in 311 talukas of the Dang district. This, according to Dholakia's website, was a "resolution" taken by the trust in 2017 for the "awakening of social consciousness of about 2.5 lakh forest dwellers" in Dang.

In the centre of Gadwhi, one of the SRWT Hanuman temples stands prominently in the village square. Inside the forest, atop a hill is the Devasthan, the indigenous place of worship for the Bhil Adivasi. It is a patch of land bordered with dark grey stone slabs dug into the ground. Each stone has carvings of members of the Bhil warrior tribe, atop horses carrying swords and daggers. People believe their forefathers' weapons were buried here. Some of the stones are strewn around the hilltop, away from the central worship area. Here sits a Shivaling, with a Nandi bull facing it.

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The Peculiar Political Position of Chieftains of the Dang डांग क्षेत्र के मुखियाओं की विशिष्ट राजनीतिक स्थिति



The hilly forests of Dang district in south Gujarat are home to erstwhile kings and their kin, who continue to seek privileges and recognition within the Indian Union.

दक्षिण गुजरात के डांग ज़िले के पहाड़ी जंगलों में पूर्व राजा और उनके परिवार आज भी भारतीय संघ के भीतर विशेषाधिकार और सम्मान की मांग करते हैं।

- Alongside this, the **BJP's rhetoric around tribal identity** finds resonance among the **Bhil community** in the region.
इसके साथ-साथ, भाजपा की आदिवासी पहचान पर केंद्रित राजनीतिक रणनीति यहां की भील जनजाति के बीच प्रभावशाली साबित हो रही है।

Present-day Chieftains and Identity

वर्तमान समय के मुखिया और उनकी पहचान

- Just outside **Ahwa town**, **Kiransinh Panwar (37 years old)** lives in a ground-floor house with a **tin shed**, next to a tyre shop and a construction site.
आहवा कस्बे के बाहर 37 वर्षीय किरणसिंह पंवार एक टिन शेड वाले मकान में रहते हैं, जो एक टायर दुकान और निर्माण स्थल के बीच स्थित है।
- He owns a **white SUV** with a board that reads "**King of Dang, Gadhvi State**", accompanied by an emblem of a bowman.
उनकी सफेद SUV पर "डांग के राजा, गढ़वी राज्य" लिखा है, जिसके साथ धनुष-बाण चलाते व्यक्ति का चिन्ह बना है।
- About **15 km north** in **Gadhvi village**, **Gulsinhbhai Panwar (75 years old)** sits outside his **under-construction house**, wearing a polycot checked shirt with a pen in his pocket.
लगभग 15 किमी उत्तर में गढ़वी गांव में 75 वर्षीय गुलसिंहभाई पंवार अपने निर्माणाधीन मकान के बाहर बैठते हैं, पॉलीकॉट की चेक शर्ट और जेब में पेन के साथ।
- He is one of the **naiks** of Gadhvi — a **hereditary leader** of small village groups from the **erstwhile Dang kingdoms**.
वे गढ़वी के एक नायक हैं — जो पूर्व डांग रियासतों के वंशानुगत गांव प्रमुख होते थे।

Post-Independence Discontent

स्वतंत्रता के बाद की असंतोष की भावना

- Gulsinhbhai claims that after **Independence**, tribal kings were **absorbed into the Indian Union** without consent and their **forest lands** were **taken away**.
गुलसिंहभाई का कहना है कि स्वतंत्रता के बाद, आदिवासी राजाओं को बिना सहमति के भारतीय संघ में मिला लिया गया और उनकी जंगल भूमि छीन ली गई।



- They were given a **small annual compensation**, which they say was **unfair and disrespectful**.
उन्हें छोटी वार्षिक मुआवज़ा राशि दी गई, जिसे वे अनुचित और अपमानजनक मानते हैं।
- In contrast to other rulers who were addressed as “**His Highness**”, Dang rulers were labeled as “**illiterate**” and “**likely to squander compensation**”.
जहां अन्य शासकों को “हिज़ हाइनेस” कहा गया, वहीं डांग के शासकों को “अशिक्षित” और “मुआवज़ा बर्बाद कर देने वाले” बताया गया।
- Other rulers received **guaranteed rights and privileges**, while Dang rulers were only **settled** in terms of **status**.
अन्य शासकों को अधिकारों और विशेषाधिकारों की गारंटी दी गई, लेकिन डांग के शासकों को केवल स्थिति तय कर दी गई।

Present Life in Former Kingdoms

पूर्व राज्यों में आज का जीवन

- The **five Bhil chieftains** of the Dangs live in their respective former kingdoms, now **remote villages** in forests with **poor infrastructure**.
डांग के पांच भील मुखिया अपने पूर्व राज्यों में रहते हैं, जो आज दूरदराज के गांव हैं, जहां बुनियादी सुविधाएं कमजोर हैं।
- These include **Gadhvi (Gulsinhbhai)**, **Pimpri (Trimakrao Panwar)**, **Daher (Tapat Rao Panwar)**, **Linga (Chatrasinh Suryavanshi)**, and **Vasurana (Dhanrajsinh Suryavanshi)**.
इनमें शामिल हैं गढ़वी (गुलसिंहभाई), पिंपरी (त्रिमक्राव पंवार), डहेड़ (तपत राव पंवार), लिंगा (छत्रसिंह सूर्यवंशी) और वसुराणा (धनराजसिंह सूर्यवंशी)।
- Their ancestors ruled over **1,683.5 sq km** of forest.
उनके पूर्वजों ने **1,683.5 वर्ग किलोमीटर** जंगल पर शासन किया था।
- Now, **panchayats** govern these areas.
अब इन क्षेत्रों का प्रशासन पंचायतों द्वारा किया जाता है।

The Dang Darbar Festival

डांग दरबार उत्सव

- Every year, just before **Holi**, the **three-day Dang Darbar** is held where chieftains are treated ceremonially as **kings**.
हर साल होली से पहले, तीन दिवसीय डांग दरबार आयोजित होता है, जहां मुखियाओं को राजा के रूप में सम्मानित किया जाता है।
- Kiransinh says they are now treated as kings only **once a year**, due to their **tribal status** and **lack of education** among their forefathers.



किरणसिंह कहते हैं कि अब उन्हें साल में केवल एक दिन के लिए राजा जैसा माना जाता है क्योंकि उनके पूर्वज अशिक्षित थे और वे आदिवासी हैं।

- The Gujarat government, through the **Governor**, gives **political pensions** during the Darbar.

गुजरात सरकार राज्यपाल के माध्यम से डर्बार में राजनीतिक पेंशन देती है।

- In **2024–25**, the final installment paid was **₹14.73 lakh**, divided among the **five chieftains**.

2024–25 में अंतिम किश्त **₹14.73 लाख** दी गई, जो पांच मुखियाओं में बाँटी गई।

Historical Integration and Land Rights

ऐतिहासिक एकीकरण और भूमि अधिकार

- In **January 1948**, Lord Mountbatten merged the region with the **Bombay Presidency**.
जनवरी 1948 में लॉर्ड माउंटबेटन ने इस क्षेत्र को बॉम्बे प्रेसीडेंसी में मिला दिया।
- By **1954**, **Morarji Desai**, then CM of Bombay, declared the forest land claimed by Bhils as **state property**.
1954 में, तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री मोरारजी देसाई ने भीलों की दावा की गई जंगल भूमि को राज्य की संपत्ति घोषित कर दिया।
- According to **Dhanrajsinh (69 years old)**, what happened was a **betrayal**.
69 वर्षीय धनराजसिंह के अनुसार, जो कुछ हुआ वह विश्वासघात था।

Unequal Compensation and Status

असमान मुआवज़ा और स्थिति

- Until **1971**, rulers of former princely states received **yearly payments**.
1971 तक, पूर्व रियासतों के शासकों को **वार्षिक भुगतान** मिलते थे।
- While **Baroda's Gaekwad** received **₹26.5 lakh** in **1949**, Dangs chieftains were given only **₹1.22 lakh**, divided among **700 people**.
1949 में बड़ौदा के गायकवाड़ को **₹26.5 लाख** मिले, वहीं डांग के मुखियाओं को केवल **₹1.22 लाख** दिए गए, जो **700 लोगों** में बाँटे गए।
- The government said the **Collector of Dang** should just **inform** the chiefs of the decision.
सरकार ने कहा कि डांग के कलेक्टर को केवल मुखियाओं को **सरकारी निर्णय बताना** चाहिए।

Modern Assertion and Demands

आधुनिक समय में मुखियाओं की माँगें

- At this year's **Dang Darbar**, **Dhanrajsinh** stated that while they respect the Constitution, they may **approach international human rights bodies** if needed.



इस वर्ष के डांग दरबार में धनराजसिंह ने कहा कि वे संविधान का सम्मान करते हैं, लेकिन आवश्यकता पड़ी तो वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थाओं तक जाने को तैयार हैं।

- For the past **two years**, the **Governor** has not physically attended the event. पिछले दो वर्षों से राज्यपाल ने इस कार्यक्रम में सशरीर भाग नहीं लिया है।

Rights and Privileges

अधिकार और विशेषाधिकार

- In the past, the **Bhils** have taken the government to court over the Indian government's "unilateral" decision to co-opt them into the Indian state, but the courts ruled it to be "in public interest".

अतीत में, भील समुदाय ने भारत सरकार द्वारा उन्हें भारतीय राज्य में शामिल करने के "एकतरफा निर्णय" के खिलाफ अदालत का रुख किया, लेकिन अदालतों ने इसे "जनहित में" माना।

- Efforts to organise legally were led by **Shramik Vikas Sansthan**, founded by veteran Congress leader and former Gujarat Minister **Sanat Mehta**.
कानूनी रूप से संगठित होने के प्रयासों का नेतृत्व श्रमिक विकास संस्थान ने किया, जिसकी स्थापना कांग्रेस के वरिष्ठ नेता और गुजरात के पूर्व मंत्री सनत मेहता ने की थी।

Political Landscape of Dang District

डांग जिले का राजनीतिक परिदृश्य

- Since **Gujarat** became a separate state, **Dang district** has mostly voted for the **Congress**, except when **BJP won twice in a row after Narendra Modi** became Prime Minister.

जब से गुजरात एक अलग राज्य बना है, तब से डांग जिला ज्यादातर कांग्रेस को वोट देता रहा है, केवल दो बार नरेंद्र मोदी के प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद भाजपा ने लगातार जीत दर्ज की।

- In the last **five years**, the **BJP** has tried to woo **Scheduled Tribe** voters by promoting **Adivasi resistance movements** as part of **Bharatiya sabhyata and sanskriti** (Indian civilisation and culture).

पिछले पांच वर्षों में, भाजपा ने अनुसूचित जनजाति मतदाताओं को लुभाने के लिए आदिवासी प्रतिरोध आंदोलनों को भारतीय सभ्यता और संस्कृति का हिस्सा बताकर एक कथा तैयार की है।



Cultural and Mythological Importance of Dangs

डांग का सांस्कृतिक और पौराणिक महत्व

- **Dang district**, located on the border of **Gujarat and Maharashtra**, is believed to have been part of **Dandakaranya**, where **Lord Ram, Sita, and Lakshman** are believed to have visited during their exile.

गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र की सीमा पर स्थित डांग जिला को दंडकारण्य का हिस्सा माना जाता है, जहाँ विश्वास है कि भगवान राम, सीता और लक्ष्मण अपने वनवास के दौरान आए थे।

Historical Context and Disputes on Forest Ownership

ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ और वन स्वामित्व पर विवाद

- In **1947**, those in power considered making **Dang** an **independent** entity. **Sardar Patel** promised that its **budget and development** would be treated **separately** from the Bombay Presidency.

1947 में सत्ता में बैठे लोगों ने डांग को स्वतंत्र बनाने पर विचार किया था। सरदार पटेल ने वादा किया था कि उसका बजट और विकास बॉम्बे प्रेसीडेंसी से अलग तरीके से किया जाएगा।

- At the **Dang Darbar**, **Dhanrajsinh** claimed the **British** recognised their **sovereignty** by executing a **lease** in **1842**, and by **1893**, they were paid **₹17,878 annually**, equivalent to **₹1.07 crore** today.

डांग दरबार में धनराजसिंह ने कहा कि ब्रिटिशों ने 1842 में लीज पर दस्तखत कर उनकी संप्रभुता को मान्यता दी थी, और 1893 तक उन्हें हर साल ₹17,878 किराया दिया जाता था, जो आज के हिसाब से ₹1.07 करोड़ होता है।

- By **1878**, the **British** began administering the district as **foreign territory** under the **Foreign Jurisdiction (India) Order**.

1878 तक ब्रिटिशों ने इस जिले का प्रशासन विदेशी क्षेत्र के रूप में शुरू कर दिया था, जो **Foreign Jurisdiction (India) Order** के तहत आता था।

- A letter by Collector **K.T. Satarawala** in **1950** warned that **Chiefs** might wrongly believe **land ownership** belonged to them as the **government collected revenue** on their behalf.

1950 में कलेक्टर के.टी. सतारावाला ने एक पत्र में चेतावनी दी थी कि सरदारों को यह गलत धारणा हो सकती है कि ज़मीनें उनकी हैं, क्योंकि सरकार उनकी ओर से राजस्व एकत्र करती है।



Current Demands and Rights over Forests

वर्तमान मांगें और वनों पर अधिकार

- At the **Dang Darbar**, **Dhanrajsinh** threatened to launch a **protest in April** if the government did not decide on their **forest rights, succession rights, and compensation**.
डांग दरबार में धनराजसिंह ने चेतावनी दी थी कि यदि सरकार ने वन अधिकारों, उत्तराधिकार अधिकारों और मुआवज़े पर निर्णय नहीं लिया, तो वे अप्रैल में विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू करेंगे।
- **Dhanrajsinh** asked why their **forefathers** were treated differently than the over **500 kings** who were given **Instruments of Accession**.
धनराजसिंह ने पूछा कि उनके पूर्वजों को अन्य 500 से अधिक राजाओं की तरह अधिग्रहण पत्र (Instrument of Accession) क्यों नहीं दिया गया।
- **Gulsinhbhai** said that while they have **agricultural lands**, they have **no access to forests**, while **cooperatives** are allowed to cut down trees.
गुलसिंहभाई ने कहा कि जहां उनके पास कृषि भूमि है, वहीं उन्हें वनों तक पहुंच नहीं है, जबकि सहकारी समितियों को पेड़ काटने की अनुमति है।
- Officials say that although **land ownership** was given in the **1970s**, **forest access** remains restricted.
अधिकारियों का कहना है कि 1970 के दशक में भूमि का स्वामित्व दिया गया था, लेकिन वनों तक पहुंच आज भी सीमित है।
- The **Collectorate** could not confirm if chiefs have rights under the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**.
कलेक्टर यह पुष्टि नहीं कर सका कि क्या सरदारों को वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 के तहत अधिकार मिले हैं।
- **Gulsinhbhai** stated that their **ancestors** protected forests by **stopping fires**, often caused by **poachers**.
गुलसिंहभाई ने कहा कि उनके पूर्वजों ने शिकारियों द्वारा लगाई गई आग को रोककर वनों की रक्षा की थी।



- 1954 records show chiefs were paid in cloth (shelas) and silver bangles for fire protection.

1954 के रिकॉर्ड दर्शाते हैं कि आग की रोकथाम के लिए सरदारों को कपड़े (शेला) और चांदी की चूड़ियाँ दी जाती थीं।

Education and Empowerment

शिक्षा और सशक्तिकरण

- **Rashmita Kiransinh Panwar**, daughter of a chieftain, is pursuing a **postgraduate degree in Economics** from **M.R. Desai Arts and E.E.L.K. Commerce College** in Chikhli.

सरदार की बेटी रश्मिता किरणसिंह पंवार चिखली के एम.आर. देसाई आर्ट्स और ई.ई.एल.के. कॉमर्स कॉलेज से अर्थशास्त्र में स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री कर रही हैं।

- She said her teachers advised that **Economics** would help in **bank jobs** or starting her own **business**.

उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षकों ने उन्हें बताया कि अर्थशास्त्र से वे बैंक की नौकरी या अपना व्यवसाय शुरू कर सकती हैं।

- Rashmita added she is **Christian**, though her father is not.

रश्मिता ने कहा कि वह ईसाई हैं, हालांकि उनके पिता नहीं हैं।

Religious Trends and Transformation in Dang

डांग में धार्मिक प्रवृत्तियाँ और परिवर्तन

- The **prominent religious buildings** in **Ahwa town** are **churches**, but **BJP flags** and **Hanuman temple signboards** are common on the outskirts.

आहवा कस्बे में प्रमुख धार्मिक स्थल चर्च हैं, लेकिन बाहरी इलाकों में भाजपा के झंडे और हनुमान मंदिरों के संकेत बोर्ड दिखते हैं।

- These temples are built with support from the **Shree Ramkrishna Welfare Trust (SRWT)**, run by **BJP's Rajya Sabha MP** and **diamond merchant Govind Dholakia**.



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

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ये मंदिर श्री रामकृष्ण वेलफेयर ट्रस्ट (SRWT) द्वारा बनाए जा रहे हैं, जिसे भाजपा के राज्यसभा सांसद और हीरा व्यापारी गोविंद ढोलकिया संचालित करते हैं।

- As per the **2011 Census**, over **93%** of **Dang's population** belongs to **Scheduled Tribes**, and **90.43%** of them follow **Hinduism**, up from **89.75%** in **2001**.
2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार, डांग की **93%** से अधिक आबादी अनुसूचित जनजातियों की है और उनमें से **90.43%** हिंदू धर्म को मानते हैं, जो **2001 में 89.75%** था।
- Around **9.03%** of STs follow **Christianity**, a slight decline from **9.87%** in **2001**.
लगभग **9.03%** जनजातीय लोग ईसाई धर्म को मानते हैं, जो **2001 में 9.87%** था।
- The **SRWT** aims to build **311 Hanuman temples** in **311 talukas** of Dang for the “**awakening of social consciousness**” of **2.5 lakh forest dwellers**, as per their **2017 resolution**.
SRWT का लक्ष्य 2017 के प्रस्ताव के अनुसार 311 तालुकों में 311 हनुमान मंदिर बनाकर 2.5 लाख वनवासियों की सामाजिक चेतना को जागृत करना है।
- In **Gadhvi**, one such **Hanuman temple** stands in the village square.
गधवी गांव के चौक में ऐसा एक हनुमान मंदिर प्रमुखता से स्थित है।
- Deep in the forest, on a hilltop, lies the **Devasthana**, a sacred place for **Bhil Adivasis**, marked by stones with **carvings of warriors**.
जंगल में एक पहाड़ी पर स्थित **देवस्थान भील आदिवासियों का एक पवित्र स्थल है, जहाँ योद्धाओं की नक्काशीदार पत्थर लगे हैं।**
- A **Shivling** with a **Nandi bull** is also present there, worshipped by the community.
वहाँ एक **शिवलिंग और नंदी बैल भी हैं, जिन्हें समुदाय द्वारा पूजा जाता है।**



Vance visits Italy and Vatican after tangling with Pope on migration



GS Paper I: Mapping

AFP

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance arrived in Rome on Friday for meetings with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin. No meeting with Pope Francis was scheduled. Pope and Mr. Vance have previously clashed over U.S. migration and deportation policies. AP

KARACHI

Mob beats to death man from Pakistan's Ahmadiyya minority



GS Paper I: Ahmadiya Community

AFP

A mob led by Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked an Ahmadi worship place in Karachi's Saddar area, killing one man and injuring others. Police rescued trapped Ahmadis, but the Human Rights Commission condemned the incident as state complicity in systematic persecution. AFP

Mob Beats to Death Man from Pakistan's Ahmadiyya Minority

पाकिस्तान के अहमदिया अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के व्यक्ति की भीड़ ने पीट-पीट कर हत्या कर दी

• A mob led by Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked an Ahmadi worship place in Karachi's Saddar area.

तहरीक-ए-लब्बैक पाकिस्तान (TLP) के नेतृत्व में एक भीड़ ने कराची के सदर इलाके में एक अहमदिया उपासना स्थल पर हमला किया।

• The attack resulted in the death of one man and injuries to others.

इस हमले में एक व्यक्ति की मौत हो गई और अन्य घायल हो गए।

• Police intervened and rescued trapped Ahmadis from the site.

पुलिस ने हस्तक्षेप कर फंसे हुए अहमदियों को बचाया।



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- The Human Rights Commission condemned the incident.
मानवाधिकार आयोग ने इस घटना की निंदा की।
- It described the incident as an example of **state complicity in systematic persecution**.
इस घटना को संगठित उत्पीड़न में राज्य की मिलीभगत का उदाहरण बताया गया।

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

1. **A Restoration of Sanity to the Constitutional System**
संविधानिक प्रणाली में विवेक की पुनर्स्थापना
2. **NCLAT Sets Aside BCCI, Riju Plea on Byju's**
एनसीएलएटी ने बीसीसीआई और रिजु की बायजूस पर अपील खारिज की
3. **Sudan Camp Assault Survivors in 'Disastrous Conditions': MSF**
सूडान शिविर पर हमले से बचे लोग 'विनाशकारी हालात' में: MSF



A restoration of sanity to the constitutional system

GS Paper II: Polity

The judgment of the Supreme Court of India, on April 8, 2025, namely, *The State Of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamilnadu and Anr.*, can be called a landmark one as it has brought greater clarity to the constitutional provision dealing with the giving of assent to a Bill by a Governor. In this case, the background to the case is about the Governor of Tamil Nadu, R.N. Ravi, who had kept with him 10 Bills without taking any decision on them for many years. Finally, when the Assembly passed the Bills again and sent them to him, the Governor, instead of giving his assent, as per the mandate of Article 200 of the Constitution, sent them to the President of India for consideration. He sent the Bills to the President only after the Government of Tamil Nadu approached the top court.

The Bench of the Court (Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan) has now held that the action of the Governor in sending the Bills to the President at that stage to be unconstitutional and has struck it down. The Court also struck down the action taken by the President on those Bills – she had withheld assent. Invoking its special power under Article 142, the Court declared that all those Bills rejected by the President shall be deemed to have been assented to.

It is perhaps the first time in the history of the Court that Bills passed by the legislature of a state and withheld by the President have been declared as assented to by the Court. It is an extraordinary remedy to an extraordinary situation created by an extraordinary action of a State Governor.

In fact, Tamil Nadu is not the only State where the Governor has sat on Bills passed by the legislature. It has happened in Kerala, Telangana and Punjab. Kerala has now approached the Court on the same issue, which is yet to be heard.

The Bill does not die

Article 200 lays down the course of action to be followed by the Governor when a Bill duly passed by the legislature is presented to him. The logical course the Governor should follow is to give assent to the Bill. But if he does not follow this and decides to withhold assent to the Bill, the said Article says that he may declare that he is withholding assent. It would thus appear that once the Governor withholds assent, the Bill will die a natural death. The wording of this Article would convey such a meaning. But this part of the Article was very cogently explained by the Court in *State Of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to The Governor of Punjab and Another (2023)*. The Court made it unambiguously clear that a declaration by the Governor that he is withholding assent does not bring an end to the Bill. It held that withholding of the Bill should be followed by sending the Bill to the legislature for reconsideration as soon as possible.

When the Bill is thus sent to the legislature, it would reconsider it promptly and send it back to the Governor either in the form in which it was passed originally or with amendments suggested



P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The importance of the top court's judgment on the Tamil Nadu Governor lies in the need to make suitable changes in the Constitution that relate to the issue of assent to Bills

by the Governor. Either way, the Governor will have to give assent to the Bill. He cannot exercise any veto against it. The Court has explained this point in the following words: "if the governor decides to withhold assent under the substantive part of Article 200 the logical course of action is to pursue the course indicated in the first proviso of remitting the Bill to the state legislature for reconsideration ... if the first proviso is not read in juxtaposition to the power to withhold assent conferred by the substantive part of Article 200 the governor as the unelected head of the state would be in a position to virtually veto the functioning of a duly elected legislature by simple declaring that assent is withheld without any further recourse".

This judicial explanation has been carried forward by the Court in the Tamil Nadu case. The Court has reiterated this position, namely, withholding assent is not the end of the story so far as the Bill is concerned but the Governor is mandated to send the Bill back to the legislature for its reconsideration and the Governor shall give assent to the Bill which is sent to him after reconsideration.

The Court's 'time limit' and legality

Three crucial points have been decided by the Court which make this judgment truly historic. The first relates to the time limit fixed within which the Governor as well as the President of India should decide the issue of assent. The minimum period is one month and the maximum, three months. If the Governor or the President does not adhere to this time limit, the aggrieved State can seek the intervention of the constitutional court. Obviously, the Court went to the extent of fixing a time limit in this case because of the fact that the Governor sat on the Bills for years without taking any decision. The Court has said that the Governor does not have the power to exercise a pocket veto or an absolute veto while exercising his power under Article 200.

Following the judgment, questions have been raised on the legality of a time limit under Article 200. The Court has clarified it in the judgment – it has stated that it is guided by the inherent expedient nature of the procedure prescribed under Article 200 and the well-settled legal principle that where no time limit for the exercise of a power is prescribed, it should be exercised within a reasonable period. The Court has viewed the deliberate inaction on the part of the Governor in assenting to the Bills or reserving them for the consideration of the President as a serious threat to the federal polity.

The second point relates to the question of discretion of the Governor in withholding assent or reserving the Bill for the consideration of the President.

The Court has taken the position that the Governor can take either action only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. The judgment says that when the Governor withholds assent, he has to send the Bill to the legislature for

reconsideration and when the Assembly sends the Bill back to the Governor with or without the amendments suggested by him, the Governor has to give assent.

But there is a problem with this proposition. For example, what is the occasion when the government has to advise the Governor to withhold assent and send the Bill to the Assembly for reconsideration? When the legislature can send back the Bill after reconsideration without accepting any of the amendments suggested by the Governor, how can it be then said that the Council of Ministers have advised the Governor to propose amendments to the legislature when the government commands a majority there? In fact, on the question of discretion, the Court has not been consistent as different Benches have given different opinions thereon.

Constitutional heads and judicial review

The third, and most crucial, point is about judicial review of the decision of the Governor and the President. The basic proposition laid down by the Court after reviewing a catena of cases is that "no exercise of power under the constitution is beyond the pale of judicial review". So, it has held that there is no reason to exclude the discharge of functions by the Governor or the President under Articles 200 and 201, respectively, from judicial review.

The judgment has been assailed by the Kerala Governor who has said that this is a case of judicial overreach and that it is the job of Parliament, and not the Court, to amend the Constitution. While it is true that Parliament alone has the right to amend the Constitution, it is the job of the judiciary to explain and interpret the constitutional provisions. Another issue that has been raised by a section of lawyers is that the issues decided by Justice Pardiwala's Bench can be decided only by a Constitution Bench under Article 145(3). In fact, the Constitution Bench under Article 145(3) decides substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

Closer scrutiny would reveal that none of these points comes under the category of substantial question of law within the meaning of that Article. As a matter of fact, the Court has only brought out the inherent meaning and amplified the dimensions of it in Articles 200 and 201 with the objective of preventing the subversion of the constitutional order. By doing so, the Court has restored sanity to the constitutional system which had come under severe strain due to plain arbitrariness and deliberate inaction on the part of constitutional authorities.

Decades ago, India had seen the unedifying spectacle of a President sitting on the postal Bill for years, with a helpless Union government unable to do anything. This underscores the need to make suitable changes in the relevant provisions of the Constitution relating to the issue of assent to Bills, whether they are passed by Parliament or a State legislature. The cue must be from this judgment. Therein lies the importance of this judgment.

A Restoration of Sanity to the Constitutional System

संविधानिक प्रणाली में विवेक की पुनर्स्थापना

Supreme Court's Landmark Judgment on Governor's Role

राज्यपाल की भूमिका पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का ऐतिहासिक निर्णय



- On April 8, 2025, the Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment in the case **The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu and Anr.**
8 अप्रैल 2025 को भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने तमिलनाडु राज्य बनाम तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल और अन्य मामले में ऐतिहासिक फैसला सुनाया।
- The ruling clarified the constitutional provision related to the Governor's assent to a Bill.
इस निर्णय ने राज्यपाल द्वारा विधेयक को मंजूरी देने से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान को स्पष्ट किया।
- In this case, Governor R.N. Ravi had kept 10 Bills pending for several years without taking any decision.
इस मामले में, राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि ने 10 विधेयकों को कई वर्षों तक बिना किसी निर्णय के लंबित रखा।
- When the Assembly re-passed the Bills, the Governor, instead of giving assent as per Article 200, sent them to the President of India.
जब विधानसभा ने उन विधेयकों को दोबारा पारित किया, तब राज्यपाल ने अनुच्छेद 200 के अनुसार मंजूरी देने के बजाय उन्हें राष्ट्रपति के पास भेज दिया।
- The Governor took this step only after the Tamil Nadu government approached the Supreme Court.
राज्यपाल ने यह कदम तब उठाया, जब तमिलनाडु सरकार ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का दरवाजा खटखटाया।

Supreme Court's Verdict and Use of Article 142 सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का निर्णय और अनुच्छेद 142 का प्रयोग

- The Supreme Court Bench of Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan held the Governor's action of referring the Bills to the President unconstitutional and struck it down.
न्यायमूर्ति जे.बी. पारदीवाला और न्यायमूर्ति आर. महादेवन की पीठ ने राज्यपाल की यह कार्रवाई कि उन्होंने विधेयकों को राष्ट्रपति के पास भेजा, असंवैधानिक ठहराई और रद्द कर दी।
- The Court also struck down the President's action of withholding assent to those Bills.
न्यायालय ने राष्ट्रपति द्वारा उन विधेयकों को अस्वीकृत करने की कार्रवाई को भी रद्द कर दिया।
- Using its powers under Article 142, the Court declared that all the rejected Bills shall be deemed to have been assented to.
अनुच्छेद 142 के अंतर्गत अपने विशेष अधिकार का प्रयोग करते हुए न्यायालय ने कहा कि सभी अस्वीकृत विधेयकों को मंजूर माना जाएगा।
- This is the first time in Indian judicial history that Bills rejected by the President have been declared as assented by the Court.
यह पहली बार हुआ है जब राष्ट्रपति द्वारा अस्वीकृत विधेयकों को न्यायालय द्वारा मंजूर घोषित किया गया है।



- This step was taken as an **extraordinary remedy** to an **extraordinary situation** created by an **extraordinary action** of the Governor.

यह कदम राज्यपाल की असाधारण कार्रवाई से उत्पन्न असाधारण स्थिति के समाधान के लिए असाधारण उपाय के रूप में उठाया गया।

Similar Situations in Other States

अन्य राज्यों में समान परिस्थितियाँ

- **Tamil Nadu** is not the only state where such an issue occurred. Similar incidents have been reported in **Kerala, Telangana, and Punjab**.
तमिलनाडु ऐसा अकेला राज्य नहीं है जहाँ ऐसी समस्या हुई हो। केरल, तेलंगाना और पंजाब में भी इसी तरह की घटनाएँ हुई हैं।
- **Kerala** has also approached the **Supreme Court**, and the matter is yet to be heard.
केरल ने भी सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया है, और मामला अभी लंबित है।

Clarification of Article 200

अनुच्छेद 200 की व्याख्या

- **Article 200** outlines the course of action for a **Governor** when a **Bill** is presented to him after being passed by the **legislature**.
अनुच्छेद 200 यह स्पष्ट करता है कि जब कोई विधेयक विधानसभा से पारित होकर राज्यपाल के पास आता है, तो राज्यपाल को क्या कदम उठाने चाहिए।
- The **logical course** is for the Governor to **give assent**.
तार्किक रूप से राज्यपाल को मंजूरी देनी चाहिए।
- If the Governor decides to **withhold assent**, he must **declare** it under Article 200.
यदि राज्यपाल मंजूरी नहीं देना चाहते, तो उन्हें अनुच्छेद 200 के अंतर्गत इसकी घोषणा करनी चाहिए।
- This gives an impression that the **Bill dies** once assent is withheld.
इससे यह प्रतीत होता है कि मंजूरी न मिलने पर विधेयक समाप्त हो जाता है।
- However, in the **State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab (2023)** case, the **Supreme Court clarified** that **withholding assent does not end the Bill**.
हालांकि, राज्य बनाम पंजाब के राज्यपाल के प्रमुख सचिव (2023) मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि मंजूरी न देना विधेयक का अंत नहीं है।
- The **Governor must send the Bill back** to the legislature for **reconsideration**.
राज्यपाल को विधेयक को पुनर्विचार के लिए विधानसभा में वापस भेजना अनिवार्य है।
- After reconsideration, the **Bill may be returned with or without amendments**, but the **Governor must assent** to it.
पुनर्विचार के बाद, विधेयक संशोधन सहित या बिना संशोधन के लौट सकता है, परंतु राज्यपाल को मंजूरी देनी ही होगी।



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- The Court stated that without such a procedure, the **unelected Governor** could **veto** the decisions of a **duly elected legislature**.

न्यायालय ने कहा कि यदि ऐसा न किया जाए, तो एक गैर-निर्वाचित राज्यपाल चुनी हुई विधानसभा के कार्यों को वीटो कर सकता है।

Reiteration in the Tamil Nadu Case

तमिलनाडु मामले में पुनः पुष्टि

- In the Tamil Nadu case, the **Supreme Court reiterated** that **withholding assent is not final**.
तमिलनाडु के मामले में, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने दोहराया कि मंजूरी न देना अंतिम निर्णय नहीं है।
- The **Governor is bound** to send the Bill back for **reconsideration** and later **assent** to it once returned.
राज्यपाल बाध्य हैं कि वे विधेयक को पुनर्विचार के लिए विधानसभा में भेजें और पुनः प्राप्त होने पर उसे मंजूरी दें।

The Court's 'time limit' and legality

कोर्ट की 'समय सीमा' और इसकी वैधता

- The **Court has decided three crucial points** that make this judgment truly historic.
कोर्ट ने तीन महत्वपूर्ण बिंदुओं पर फैसला दिया है, जिससे यह निर्णय ऐतिहासिक बन गया है।
- The **first point relates to a time limit** within which the **Governor** and the **President of India** should decide on giving assent to a Bill.
पहला बिंदु एक समय सीमा से जुड़ा है जिसके भीतर राज्यपाल और भारत के राष्ट्रपति को किसी विधेयक पर स्वीकृति देने का निर्णय लेना चाहिए।
- The Court fixed the **minimum period as one month** and the **maximum as three months**.
कोर्ट ने न्यूनतम अवधि एक महीना और अधिकतम तीन महीने तय की है।
- If the Governor or President fails to adhere to this time frame, the **aggrieved State** can approach the **constitutional court**.
यदि राज्यपाल या राष्ट्रपति इस समय सीमा का पालन नहीं करते हैं, तो प्रभावित राज्य संवैधानिक न्यायालय से हस्तक्षेप की मांग कर सकता है।
- This provision was made because the Governor kept Bills pending for **years** without a decision.
यह प्रावधान इसलिए किया गया क्योंकि राज्यपाल ने विधेयकों को वर्षों तक बिना किसी निर्णय के लंबित रखा।
- The Court clarified that the **Governor cannot exercise a pocket veto or absolute veto** under **Article 200**.



कोर्ट ने स्पष्ट किया कि राज्यपाल अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत पॉकेट वीटो या पूर्ण वीटो का प्रयोग नहीं कर सकते।

- Doubts were raised regarding the **legality of fixing a time limit** under **Article 200**.

अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत समय सीमा तय करने की वैधता पर सवाल उठाए गए।

- The Court justified it by stating that when no time is prescribed, **power should be exercised within a reasonable period**.

कोर्ट ने तर्क दिया कि जब कोई समय सीमा निर्धारित नहीं होती है, तब शक्ति का प्रयोग एक उचित अवधि में किया जाना चाहिए।

- The **Governor's inaction** was seen as a **serious threat to the federal polity**.

राज्यपाल की निष्क्रियता को संघीय शासन प्रणाली के लिए गंभीर खतरा माना गया।

Discretion of the Governor

राज्यपाल का विवेकाधिकार

- The second point concerns the **Governor's discretion in withholding assent or reserving the Bill for the President**.

दूसरा बिंदु राज्यपाल के विवेकाधिकार से जुड़ा है जब वह विधेयक को स्वीकृति देने से इनकार करता है या उसे राष्ट्रपति के पास विचारार्थ भेजता है।

- The Court stated that **such actions can be taken only on the advice of the Council of Ministers**.

कोर्ट ने कहा कि ऐसे निर्णय केवल मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह पर ही लिए जा सकते हैं।

- If the Governor withholds assent, he must **send the Bill back to the legislature for reconsideration**.

यदि राज्यपाल स्वीकृति रोकते हैं, तो उन्हें विधेयक को पुनर्विचार के लिए विधानसभा में भेजना होगा।

- Once the legislature sends the Bill back, with or without amendments, **the Governor must give assent**.

जब विधानसभा विधेयक को संशोधनों के साथ या बिना वापस भेजती है, तो राज्यपाल को स्वीकृति देनी होती है।

- However, **there is a problem with this logic**.

हालाँकि, इस तर्क में एक समस्या है।

- If the Assembly has a majority and can reject any suggested amendments, then the **Council of Ministers** advising such amendments seems illogical.

अगर विधानसभा में बहुमत है और वह सभी संशोधनों को अस्वीकार कर सकती है, तो ऐसे में मंत्रिपरिषद द्वारा संशोधनों की सलाह देना तर्कहीन प्रतीत होता है।

- The **Court has not been consistent on the issue of discretion, as different Benches have given different opinions**.

राज्यपाल के विवेकाधिकार के मामले में कोर्ट की राय एक समान नहीं रही, क्योंकि विभिन्न पीठों ने विभिन्न राय दी है।



Constitutional Heads and Judicial Review

संविधान प्रमुख और न्यायिक समीक्षा

- The third and most crucial point is about the **judicial review of decisions made by the Governor and the President**.
तीसरा और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बिंदु राज्यपाल और राष्ट्रपति द्वारा लिए गए निर्णयों की न्यायिक समीक्षा से जुड़ा है।
- The Court ruled that **no exercise of constitutional power is beyond judicial review**.
कोर्ट ने निर्णय दिया कि संविधान के तहत किसी भी शक्ति का प्रयोग न्यायिक समीक्षा से परे नहीं है।
- Therefore, functions under **Articles 200 and 201** can also be **judicially reviewed**.
इसलिए, अनुच्छेद 200 और 201 के तहत किए गए कार्य भी न्यायिक समीक्षा के अंतर्गत आते हैं।
- The **Kerala Governor** criticized the judgment as **judicial overreach**, arguing that **only Parliament** can amend the Constitution.
केरल के राज्यपाल ने इस फैसले की आलोचना करते हुए इसे न्यायिक अतिक्रमण कहा और तर्क दिया कि संविधान में संशोधन का अधिकार केवल संसद को है।
- While it's true that **only Parliament can amend** the Constitution, the **judiciary has the duty to interpret and clarify** constitutional provisions.
हालाँकि यह सत्य है कि **सिर्फ संसद संविधान में संशोधन कर सकती है**, लेकिन न्यायपालिका का कर्तव्य है कि वह संवैधानिक प्रावधानों की व्याख्या और स्पष्टता प्रदान करे।
- Some lawyers argued that the **judgment by Justice Pardiwala's Bench** should have been referred to a **Constitution Bench under Article 145(3)**.
कुछ वकीलों ने तर्क दिया कि न्यायमूर्ति परदीवाला की पीठ द्वारा दिया गया निर्णय अनुच्छेद 145(3) के तहत एक संविधान पीठ द्वारा दिया जाना चाहिए था।
- However, a closer look shows that these do not involve **substantial constitutional questions** as required under Article 145(3).
हालाँकि, निकट से देखने पर यह स्पष्ट होता है कि ये मामले **संविधान की महत्वपूर्ण व्याख्या की श्रेणी में नहीं आते**, जैसा कि अनुच्छेद 145(3) में अपेक्षित है।
- The Court has **only clarified and amplified the meaning of Articles 200 and 201** to prevent the **subversion of the constitutional order**.
कोर्ट ने केवल अनुच्छेद 200 और 201 का अर्थ स्पष्ट और विस्तारित किया है ताकि संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के उल्लंघन को रोका जा सके।
- This judgment helps to **restore sanity to the constitutional system**, which was under strain due to **arbitrariness and inaction** by constitutional authorities.
यह निर्णय **संवैधानिक प्रणाली में संतुलन बहाल करता है**, जो संवैधानिक पदाधिकारियों की मनमानी और निष्क्रियता के कारण तनाव में थी।
- In the past, India witnessed a **President withholding the postal Bill for years, leaving the Union government helpless**.
अतीत में भारत ने देखा कि एक राष्ट्रपति ने वर्षों तक पोस्टल विधेयक को लंबित रखा, जिससे केंद्र सरकार असहाय हो गई थी।



- This case shows the **need to amend constitutional provisions** related to **assent to Bills**, whether passed by **Parliament or State legislature**.
यह मामला दर्शाता है कि **विधेयकों को स्वीकृति देने से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधानों में संशोधन की आवश्यकता है**, चाहे वे **संसद द्वारा पारित हों या राज्य विधानसभा द्वारा**।
- The **importance of this judgment** lies in its potential to bring such **structural reforms**.
इस निर्णय का महत्व इस बात में निहित है कि यह **संरचनात्मक सुधारों को प्रेरित कर सकता है**।

Assent to Legislation

विधेयक को स्वीकृति देना

For a bill to become a law after its approval by the Parliament, it must be given assent by the President of India.

संसद द्वारा किसी विधेयक को पारित किए जाने के बाद, वह कानून तभी बनता है जब उसे भारत के राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति मिलती है।

Apart from giving his approval, the President may exercise his veto powers on certain bills.

स्वीकृति देने के अलावा, राष्ट्रपति कुछ विधेयकों पर अपनी वीटो शक्तियों का प्रयोग भी कर सकते हैं।

Constitutional Framework: Article 111

संवैधानिक ढांचा: अनुच्छेद 111

Article 111 of the Indian Constitution stipulates that when a bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament, it is presented to the **President**, who may:

अनुच्छेद 111 में कहा गया है कि जब कोई विधेयक संसद के दोनों सदनों द्वारा पारित हो जाता है, तो उसे राष्ट्रपति को भेजा जाता है, जो निम्नलिखित में से कोई कार्य कर सकते हैं:

- **Assent** to the bill, thereby enacting it into **law**.
विधेयक को **स्वीकृति देना**, जिससे वह **कानून** बन जाता है।
- **Withhold assent**, effectively **vetoing** the bill.
स्वीकृति देने से इंकार करना, जिससे विधेयक **अस्वीकृत** हो जाता है।
- **Return** the bill (if it's not a **Money Bill**) to Parliament for **reconsideration**, with a message suggesting **amendments** or **reconsideration**.



विधेयक (यदि वह धन विधेयक नहीं है) को संशोधन या पुनर्विचार के लिए संदेश के साथ संसद को वापस भेजना।

- If Parliament passes the bill again, with or without amendments, and presents it to the President, he is **obliged** to give his **assent**.
यदि संसद उस विधेयक को संशोधन सहित या बिना संशोधन के फिर से पारित करती है और राष्ट्रपति को भेजती है, तो राष्ट्रपति को अनिवार्य रूप से उसे स्वीकृति देनी होती है।

Special Case: Constitutional Amendment Bills

विशेष मामला: संविधान संशोधन विधेयक

The **24th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1971** amended Articles **13** and **368**, making it **obligatory** for the President to give his **assent** to **Constitutional Amendment Bills**.

24वां संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम, 1971 ने अनुच्छेद 13 और 368 में संशोधन किया, जिससे संविधान संशोधन विधेयकों को राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति देना अनिवार्य हो गया।

This amendment was enacted to override the **Supreme Court's decision** in **Golak Nath v. State of Punjab (1967)**, which held that Parliament could not amend **Fundamental Rights**.

यह संशोधन गोलकनाथ बनाम पंजाब राज्य (1967) में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय को निरस्त करने के लिए किया गया था, जिसमें कहा गया था कि संसद मौलिक अधिकारों में संशोधन नहीं कर सकती।

Types of Veto Powers

वीटो शक्तियों के प्रकार

Absolute Veto

पूर्ण वीटो

The **President withholds assent** to a bill, and it does **not become law**.

राष्ट्रपति विधेयक को स्वीकृति नहीं देते, और वह कानून नहीं बनता।

Typically exercised in cases where:

सामान्यतः यह इन परिस्थितियों में प्रयोग किया जाता है:

- The bill is a **Private Member's Bill** (introduced by a member not part of the government).



जब विधेयक एक संसद सदस्य द्वारा प्रस्तुत निजी विधेयक हो (जो सरकार का हिस्सा नहीं होता)।

- The **government has resigned**, and the **new government** does not support the bill. जब सरकार इस्तीफा दे चुकी होती है और नई सरकार उस विधेयक का समर्थन नहीं करती।

Suspensive Veto

स्थगन वीटो

The **President returns** the bill (not a Money Bill) to Parliament for **reconsideration**.

राष्ट्रपति विधेयक को (यदि वह धन विधेयक नहीं है) संसद को पुनर्विचार के लिए वापस भेजते हैं।

If Parliament **passes the bill again**, with or without amendments, the **President must give assent**.

यदि संसद उस विधेयक को दोबारा पारित कर देती है, चाहे संशोधन के साथ या बिना, तो राष्ट्रपति को अनिवार्य रूप से स्वीकृति देनी होती है।

In **America**, the powers of the President can be **overruled by a higher majority**, i.e., **qualified veto**.

अमेरिका में राष्ट्रपति की शक्तियों को विशेष बहुमत द्वारा अस्वीकृत किया जा सकता है, जिसे योग्य वीटो कहा जाता है।

Pocket Veto

पॉकेट वीटो

The **Constitution does not prescribe a time limit** for the President to act on a bill.

संविधान राष्ट्रपति के लिए विधेयक पर कार्य करने की कोई समय सीमा निर्धारित नहीं करता।

The **President can withhold assent indefinitely** without any action, effectively **vetoing the bill** without formal rejection.

राष्ट्रपति अनिश्चित काल तक विधेयक पर कार्य नहीं करते हुए, उसे स्वीकृति दिए बिना रोके रख सकते हैं, जिससे विधेयक अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से वीटो हो जाता है।

Case Study: Pocket Veto by President Giani Zail Singh

प्रकरण अध्ययन: राष्ट्रपति ज्ञानी जैल सिंह द्वारा पॉकेट वीटो

In **1986**, President **Giani Zail Singh** exercised the **pocket veto** on the **Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill**, which sought to **empower the government to intercept postal communications**.



1986 में राष्ट्रपति ज्ञानी जैल सिंह ने भारतीय डाकघर (संशोधन) विधेयक पर पॉकेट वीटो का प्रयोग किया, जो सरकार को डाक संवादों को रोकने का अधिकार देने का प्रयास करता था।

The President neither assented to nor returned the bill, effectively keeping it in abeyance for the remainder of his tenure.

राष्ट्रपति ने न तो विधेयक को स्वीकृति दी और न ही उसे वापस भेजा, जिससे वह अपने शेष कार्यकाल तक लंबित बना रहा।

The bill was eventually withdrawn by the subsequent government in 1990.

यह विधेयक अंततः 1990 में अगली सरकार द्वारा वापस ले लिया गया।

Comparison with the U.S. Presidential Veto

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति वीटो की तुलना

In the United States, the President must act on a bill within 10 days (excluding Sundays).

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में राष्ट्रपति को 10 दिनों के भीतर (रविवार को छोड़कर) किसी विधेयक पर कार्रवाई करनी होती है।

Failure to do so results in:

यदि ऐसा नहीं किया जाता, तो इसके परिणामस्वरूप:

- The bill becomes law if Congress is in session.
यदि कांग्रेस सत्र में होती है, तो विधेयक कानून बन जाता है।
- The bill does not become law (called pocket veto) if Congress is adjourned.
यदि कांग्रेस स्थगित हो जाती है, तो विधेयक कानून नहीं बनता (इसे पॉकेट वीटो कहा जाता है)।

In contrast, the Indian President has no such time constraint, allowing for an indefinite pocket veto.

इसके विपरीत, भारतीय राष्ट्रपति के पास ऐसी कोई समय सीमा नहीं होती, जिससे वे अनिश्चित काल तक पॉकेट वीटो लागू कर सकते हैं।

It may be said that the pocket of the Indian President is deeper than that of the American President.

यह कहा जा सकता है कि भारतीय राष्ट्रपति की जेब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति से गहरी है।

The purpose behind the vetoing power-



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Preventing Hasty Legislation

त्वरित कानून निर्माण को रोकना

The President's veto power acts as a safeguard against legislation passed without adequate deliberation, often due to time constraints or political expediency.

राष्ट्रपति की वीटो शक्ति ऐसे कानून के विरुद्ध रक्षा कवच का कार्य करती है जो अक्सर समय की कमी या राजनीतिक लाभ के कारण बिना पर्याप्त विचार-विमर्श के पारित हो जाते हैं।

Example:

In 1991, President R. Venkataraman exercised an absolute veto on the *Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill*.

उदाहरण: 1991 में राष्ट्रपति आर. वेंकटरमण ने सांसदों के वेतन, भत्ते और पेंशन (संशोधन) विधेयक पर पूर्ण वीटो का प्रयोग किया।

The bill was passed hurriedly on the last day before the Lok Sabha's dissolution without the requisite presidential recommendation, highlighting the need for careful legislative scrutiny.

यह विधेयक लोकसभा भंग होने से ठीक पहले के अंतिम दिन बिना आवश्यक राष्ट्रपति की अनुशंसा के जल्दबाजी में पारित कर दिया गया था, जिससे सावधानीपूर्वक विधायी जांच की आवश्यकता उजागर हुई।

Curbing Populist Legislation

लोकलुभावन कानूनों पर अंकुश लगाना

Veto power enables the President to prevent the enactment of laws driven by populist motives that may not align with constitutional principles or long-term national interests.

वीटो शक्ति राष्ट्रपति को ऐसे कानूनों को रोकने की शक्ति देती है जो लोकलुभावन उद्देश्यों से प्रेरित होते हैं और जो संविधानिक सिद्धांतों या राष्ट्रीय दीर्घकालिक हितों से मेल नहीं खाते।

Example:

In 1986, President Giani Zail Singh employed a pocket veto on the *Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill*, which sought to grant the government authority to intercept postal communications.

उदाहरण: 1986 में राष्ट्रपति जेल सिंह ने भारतीय डाकघर (संशोधन) विधेयक पर पॉकेट वीटो का प्रयोग किया, जो सरकार को डाक संचार को रोकने का अधिकार देना चाहता था।

The bill faced widespread criticism for infringing on civil liberties, and the President's action underscored the importance of protecting individual rights against populist pressures.

यह विधेयक नागरिक स्वतंत्रता का उल्लंघन करने के लिए व्यापक आलोचना का सामना कर रहा था, और राष्ट्रपति की कार्रवाई ने लोकलुभावन दबावों के विरुद्ध व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों की रक्षा के महत्व को दर्शाया।



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Protecting National Interests

राष्ट्रीय हितों की रक्षा करना

The **veto power** serves as a **constitutional tool** for the President to **withhold assent** to legislation that may adversely affect the **nation's unity, integrity, or security**.

वीटो शक्ति राष्ट्रपति के लिए एक **संवैधानिक उपकरण** के रूप में कार्य करती है, जिससे वह ऐसे विधेयकों को स्वीकृति देने से रोक सकते हैं जो देश की एकता, अखंडता या सुरक्षा को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

Example:

In 1954, President **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** exercised an **absolute veto** on the *PEPSU Appropriation Bill*.

उदाहरण: 1954 में राष्ट्रपति डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद ने *PEPSU विनियोग विधेयक* पर पूर्ण वीटो का प्रयोग किया।

The bill was passed during **President's Rule** in the *Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU)*, but by the time it reached the President, the **President's Rule had been revoked**.

यह विधेयक *पटियाला और पूर्वी पंजाब राज्य संघ (PEPSU)* में राष्ट्रपति शासन के दौरान पारित हुआ था, लेकिन जब तक यह राष्ट्रपति तक पहुंचा, तब तक राष्ट्रपति शासन हटा लिया गया था।

The veto prevented **potential administrative complications** and upheld **constitutional propriety**.

इस वीटो ने संभावित प्रशासनिक जटिलताओं को रोका और संवैधानिक शुचिता को बनाए रखा।

NCLAT sets aside BCCI, Riju plea on Byju's

GS Paper II: Governance

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** set aside appeals of BCCI and Riju Raveendran for withdrawing insolvency proceedings against Byju's and consider settlement between the two.

They challenged the order of the **National Company Law Tribunal**, which, on February 10, asked them to place the settlement offer before the new Committee of Creditors in which U.S.-based Glas Trust, the lenders' trustee to which Byju's owes \$1.2 billion, is a member.

NCLAT Sets Aside BCCI, Riju Plea on Byju's

एनसीएलएटी ने बीसीसीआई और रिजु की बायजूस पर अपील खारिज की

The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** has set aside the appeals filed by BCCI and Riju Raveendran seeking to withdraw insolvency proceedings against Byju's and to consider a settlement between the two parties.

राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (एनसीएलएटी) ने बीसीसीआई और रिजु रवींद्रन द्वारा बायजूस के खिलाफ दिवालियापन कार्यवाही वापस लेने और दोनों पक्षों के बीच समझौते पर विचार करने की अपील खारिज कर दी।

- They had challenged the order of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** dated **February 10**, which had directed them to place the **settlement offer** before the **new Committee of Creditors**.

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उन्होंने 10 फरवरी को दिए गए राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून न्यायाधिकरण (एनसीएलटी) के आदेश को चुनौती दी थी, जिसमें उन्हें नई लेनदार समिति के सामने समझौते का प्रस्ताव रखने को कहा गया था।

- The **Committee of Creditors** includes **Glas Trust**, a **U.S.-based lender's trustee**, to whom **Byju's** owes **\$1.2 billion**.

लेनदार समिति में ग्लास ट्रस्ट शामिल है, जो एक अमेरिका स्थित लेनदार ट्रस्टी है, जिसे बायजूस पर \$1.2 बिलियन का बकाया है।

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) राष्ट्रीय कंपनी विधि अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (एनसीएलएटी)

• The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** is a **quasi-judicial body** in India that hears appeals against the orders passed by the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**, **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, and other **statutory authorities** as specified under various Acts.

• राष्ट्रीय कंपनी विधि अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (NCLAT) भारत में एक अर्ध-न्यायिक निकाय है जो नेशनल कंपनी लॉ ट्रिब्यूनल (NCLT), दिवाला और ऋणशोधन अक्षमता बोर्ड (IBBI) और अन्य वैधानिक निकायों द्वारा पारित आदेशों के विरुद्ध अपीलों की सुनवाई करता है, जैसा कि विभिन्न अधिनियमों के तहत निर्दिष्ट किया गया है।

• It plays a critical role in **corporate governance**, especially in **insolvency resolution**, **company disputes**, and **competition law** matters.

• यह कॉर्पोरेट प्रशासन में विशेष रूप से दिवाला समाधान, कंपनी विवादों और प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून से संबंधित मामलों में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

• The NCLAT was constituted under **Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013**, and became **operational from 1st June 2016**.

• एनसीएलएटी की स्थापना कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 410 के तहत की गई थी और यह 1 जून 2016 से क्रियाशील हुआ।

Key Functions and Jurisdiction

प्रमुख कार्य और क्षेत्राधिकार

- Appellate Authority
- अपीलीय प्राधिकरण



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The NCLAT hears and decides appeals from the following bodies:

एनसीएलएटी निम्नलिखित निकायों से अपीलें सुनता है और उनका निपटारा करता है:

- **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** – under the **Companies Act, 2013**
नेशनल कंपनी लॉ ट्रिब्यूनल (NCLT) – कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 के तहत
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** – under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**
दिवाला और ऋणशोधन अक्षमता बोर्ड (IBBI) – दिवाला और ऋणशोधन अक्षमता संहिता (IBC), 2016 के तहत
- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** – under the **Competition Act, 2002**
भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) – प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम, 2002 के तहत
- **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** – under the **Companies Act, 2013**
राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय रिपोर्टिंग प्राधिकरण (NFRA) – कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 के तहत

Role in Insolvency

दिवाला मामलों में भूमिका

- Under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**, the NCLAT is the **primary appellate body** to hear grievances related to **insolvency resolution plans** and **liquidation processes** decided by the NCLT.
दिवाला और ऋणशोधन अक्षमता संहिता (IBC), 2016 के तहत, एनसीएलएटी मुख्य अपीलीय निकाय है जो दिवाला समाधान योजनाओं और लिक्विडेशन प्रक्रियाओं से संबंधित शिकायतों की सुनवाई करता है, जिन पर NCLT ने निर्णय दिया होता है।

Role in Competition Law

प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून में भूमिका

- It hears appeals against orders passed by the **CCI**, providing **checks and balances** in cases of **anti-competitive practices** and **abuse of dominance**.
यह CCI द्वारा पारित आदेशों के विरुद्ध अपीलों की सुनवाई करता है, जिससे प्रतिस्पर्धा-विरोधी प्रथाओं और प्रभुत्व के दुरुपयोग के मामलों में नियंत्रण और संतुलन बना रहता है।

Role under Companies Act, 2013

कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 के तहत भूमिका

- Hears appeals relating to disputes involving **shareholders**, **mismanagement**, **oppression**, **mergers**, and **demergers**.
यह शेयरधारकों, कुप्रबंधन, उत्पीड़न, विलय, और विभाजन से संबंधित विवादों पर अपीलों की सुनवाई करता है।

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Sudan camp assault survivors in 'disastrous conditions': MSF

GS Paper II: International Organizations

Agence France-Presse

TAWILA

Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese civilians, who had already endured months of famine, have fled in "disastrous conditions" after paramilitaries overran their camp in Darfur, medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Friday.

"We are treating children who were literally dying of thirst on their journeys," MSF project coordinator Marion Ramstein said from the small town of Tawila, a 60-km desert trek from the Zamzam camp outside El-Fasher.

"We have received so far over 170 people with gun-

Aid groups say up to one million people were sheltering in Zamzam camp when the attack took place

shot and blast injuries and 40% of them are women and girls," she added.

Aid groups say up to one million people were sheltering in the sprawling Zamzam camp when the paramilitaries launched their bloody assault last week.

The United Nations says up to 4,00,000 residents have fled the camp, which the paramilitaries announced they had overrun on Sunday.

Around half of those

have sought refuge in Tawila, where MSF's Thibault Hendler says they are "facing an absolutely catastrophic situation".

"There is no water source, no sanitation facilities and no food," Mr. Hendler said from an area of the town he said was "a completely empty lot just a week ago" but is now crammed with desperate families.

"Since last week, we've seen people arrive by the truckload to an area that simply cannot accommodate so many," he said.

MSF said that in Zamzam, fighters had been "going door to door, shooting people hiding in their homes and burning large parts of the camp".

Sudan Camp Assault Survivors in 'Disastrous Conditions': MSF

सूडान शिविर पर

हमले से बचे लोग

'विनाशकारी हालात'

में: MSF

Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese civilians, who had already suffered months of famine, have fled in "disastrous conditions" after paramilitaries overran their camp in Darfur, said

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) on Friday.

सैकड़ों हजारों सूडानी नागरिक, जो पहले ही कई महीनों की भुखमरी झेल चुके थे, दारफुर में अर्धसैनिक बलों द्वारा उनके शिविर पर कब्जा करने के बाद 'विनाशकारी हालात' में भागे हैं, यह जानकारी डॉक्टर्स विदाउट बॉर्डर्स (MSF) ने शुक्रवार को दी।

- "We are treating children who were literally dying of thirst on their journeys," said MSF project coordinator Marion Ramstein from Tawila, a 60-km desert trek from the Zamzam camp outside El-Fasher.

MSF परियोजना समन्वयक मेरियन रामस्टेन ने बताया कि "हम उन बच्चों का इलाज कर रहे हैं जो यात्रा के दौरान प्यास से मरने की कगार पर थे," यह बयान उन्होंने एल-फाशर के बाहर जमजम शिविर से 60 किमी दूर तविला से दिया।



- “We have received over **170 people** with **gunshot and blast injuries**, and **40%** of them are **women and girls**,” she added.
उन्होंने आगे बताया, “हमने **170 से अधिक घायल लोगों** को प्राप्त किया है, जिनमें **गोली और धमाके की चोटें** हैं, और उनमें से **40% महिलाएं और लड़कियां** हैं।”
- Aid groups say up to **one million people** were sheltering in the **Zamzam camp** when the **paramilitary assault** began last week.
सहायता समूहों के अनुसार, **पिछले सप्ताह** जब **अर्धसैनिक हमला** शुरू हुआ, तब **जमजम शिविर** में **लगभग 10 लाख लोग** शरण लिए हुए थे।
- The **United Nations** said up to **4,00,000 residents** have fled the camp, which the **paramilitaries claimed** to have **overrun on Sunday**.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अनुसार, **4,00,000 निवासी शिविर** से भाग चुके हैं, जिसे **अर्धसैनिक बलों** ने **रविवार को** अपने कब्जे में लेने का दावा किया।
- About **half of the evacuees** have taken refuge in **Tawila**, where **MSF’s Thibault Hender** says they are in an **“absolutely catastrophic situation.”**
लगभग **आधे विस्थापितों** ने **तविला** में शरण ली है, जहां **MSF के थिबो हेंडलर** ने कहा कि वे **“पूरी तरह तबाही जैसे हालात”** में हैं।
- “There is no **water source, no sanitation facilities, and no food**,” said Mr. Hender from a part of the town that was **“completely empty”** just a week ago, but is now **crowded with desperate families**.
हेंडलर ने बताया, “यहां **पानी का स्रोत नहीं है, न ही स्वच्छता की सुविधाएं और न ही भोजन**,” यह इलाका **एक सप्ताह पहले तक पूरी तरह खाली** था, लेकिन अब **बेहद परेशान परिवारों से भरा हुआ** है।
- “Since last week, we’ve seen people arrive **by the truckload** to an area that **cannot accommodate so many**,” he said.
उन्होंने बताया, “**पिछले सप्ताह से हमने देखा है कि लोग ट्रकों में भरकर आ रहे हैं, और यह क्षेत्र इतने लोगों को समायोजित नहीं कर सकता।**”
- MSF said that in **Zamzam**, fighters have been **“going door to door, shooting people hiding in their homes and burning large parts of the camp.”**
MSF ने कहा कि **जमजम में लड़ाके घर-घर जाकर छिपे लोगों को गोली मार रहे हैं और शिविर के बड़े हिस्सों को जला रहे हैं।**

Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

डॉक्टर्स विदाउट बॉर्डर्स (MSF)

- **Doctors Without Borders**, also known as **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**, is an international humanitarian medical organization renowned for delivering **emergency medical aid** in **conflict zones, disaster-stricken areas**, and regions with **limited healthcare access**.



डॉक्टर्स विदाउट बॉर्डर्स, जिसे Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) भी कहा जाता है, एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानवीय चिकित्सा संगठन है, जो संघर्ष क्षेत्रों, आपदा-प्रभावित क्षेत्रों और सीमित स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पहुंच वाले क्षेत्रों में आपातकालीन चिकित्सा सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए प्रसिद्ध है।

Founding and Historical Background

स्थापना और ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- MSF was established in 1971 in Paris, France, by a group of doctors and journalists responding to the humanitarian crisis during the Biafran famine in Nigeria.
MSF की स्थापना 1971 में पेरिस, फ्रांस में एक समूह द्वारा की गई थी जिसमें डॉक्टर और पत्रकार शामिल थे, जिन्होंने नाइजीरिया में बियाफ्रान अकाल के दौरान मानवीय संकट का जवाब दिया था।
- Their mission was to create an independent organization capable of providing swift and impartial medical assistance to those in dire need.
उनका मिशन एक स्वतंत्र संगठन बनाना था जो तेज़ और निष्पक्ष चिकित्सा सहायता प्रदान कर सके उन लोगों को जो गहरी आवश्यकता में थे।

Core Principles

मुख्य सिद्धांत

- **Medical Ethics:** Ensuring the provision of high-quality care to all patients.
चिकित्सा नैतिकता: सभी मरीजों को उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाली देखभाल प्रदान करने की सुनिश्चितता।
- **Impartiality:** Offering assistance solely based on need, without discrimination.
निष्पक्षता: सहायता केवल आवश्यकता के आधार पर प्रदान करना, बिना किसी भेदभाव के।
- **Independence:** Maintaining autonomy from political, economic, or religious influences.
स्वतंत्रता: राजनीतिक, आर्थिक, या धार्मिक प्रभावों से स्वायत्तता बनाए रखना।
- **Neutrality:** Not taking sides in conflicts or political disputes.
तटस्थता: संघर्षों या राजनीतिक विवादों में पक्ष न लेना।
- **Bearing Witness:** Speaking out about the plight of populations in danger.
गवाह बनना: संकटग्रस्त जनसंख्याओं के बारे में आवाज उठाना।

19_04_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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



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

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

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1. FBI Arrests Suspected BKI Operative Wanted in Punjab Terror Cases

एफबीआई ने पंजाब आतंकवादी मामलों में वांछित बीकेआई ऑपरेटिव को गिरफ्तार किया

2. Steering the Decarbonisation of India's Logistics Sector

भारत के लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र का डीकार्बनाइजेशन की ओर मार्गदर्शन

3. A Welcome Move

एक स्वागत योग्य कदम

4. Indian Electronics Manufacture Trusted for Respecting IP

बौद्धिक संपदा का सम्मान करने के लिए भारतीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माण पर भरोसा

PATRIOTICIAS



FBI arrests suspected **BKI** operative wanted in Punjab terror cases

GS Paper III: S&T
Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Enforcement and Removal Operations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Friday arrested "terrorist" Harpreet Singh, aka Happy Passia, in the United States. He was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Punjab police in several cases of terror attacks.

"Today, Harpreet Singh, an alleged terrorist responsible for terror attacks in Punjab, India, was arrested by the #FBI & #ERO in Sacramento. Linked to two international terrorist groups, he entered the U.S. illegally and used burner phones to evade capture," posted the FBI Sacramento, confirming the development.

'Major milestone'

Through his official X handle, Punjab Director-General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Happy Passia is a U.S.-based "key operative of ISI-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)" and close associate of Pakistan-based designated terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda. He described the arrest as "a major milestone in the sustained crackdown on ISI-backed terror networks".

"Between 2023-2025, Happy Passia played a central role in orchestrating targeted killings, grenade attacks on police establishments, and extortion across Punjab and other States. His arrest on April 17, 2025, in Sacramento, USA by FBI & ICE, is the outcome of excellent international cooperation and



In custody: Harpreet Singh after his arrest in California on Friday. ANI

exchange of information between the United States & India. @PunjabPoliceInd consistently shared intelligence with the central agencies," Mr. Yadav said.

A 29-year-old "gangster-turned-terrorist", Passia was allegedly involved in 16 terror attacks, including 14 grenade attacks in Punjab.

The NIA had announced a reward of ₹5 lakh for his arrest in connection with a hand grenade attack on a house in Chandigarh in September 2024.

According to the agencies, the accused had gone to Dubai in April 2018, from where he returned in February 2019 and then went to the U.K. in October 2020, before he shifted to the U.S.

It is suspected that Passia initially was associated with the members of Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang, following which he came in contact with Rinda.

Rinda had fled to Pakistan in 2018-19. Thereafter, he allegedly got involved in smuggling of arms, ammunition explosives and drugs into the Indian territory from Pakistan. He along with Happy Passia purportedly masterminded many terrorist activities.

FBI Arrests Suspected BKI Operative Wanted in Punjab Terror Cases

एफबीआई ने पंजाब आतंकवादी मामलों में

वांछित बीकेआई ऑपरेटिव को गिरफ्तार किया

• The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested Harpreet Singh, also known as Happy Passia, in the United States on April 17, 2025.

17 अप्रैल 2025 को संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में एफबीआई और यूएस इमिग्रेशन एंड कस्टम्स एनफोर्समेंट की ईआरओ ने हरप्रीत सिंह उर्फ हैप्पी पसिया को गिरफ्तार किया।

• He is wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Punjab Police in several terror attack cases.

वह कई आतंकी हमलों के मामलों में राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (एनआईए) और पंजाब पुलिस को वांछित है।

• The FBI Sacramento office confirmed that Harpreet Singh is linked to two international terrorist groups, entered the U.S. illegally, and used burner phones to avoid detection.

एफबीआई सैक्रामेंटो कार्यालय ने पुष्टि की कि हरप्रीत सिंह का संबंध दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय आतंकी संगठनों से है, वह अवैध रूप से अमेरिका में घुसा था और बर्नर फोन का उपयोग कर रहा था ताकि वह पकड़ से बच सके।

Major Milestone in Crackdown

कार्रवाई में एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर

• According to Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav, Harpreet Singh is a key operative of ISI-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and a close associate of Pakistan-based designated terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda.

पंजाब पुलिस महानिदेशक गौरव यादव के अनुसार, हरप्रीत सिंह आईएसआई समर्थित बब्बर खालसा इंटरनेशनल (बीकेआई) का प्रमुख ऑपरेटिव और पाकिस्तान स्थित घोषित आतंकवादी हरविंदर सिंह संधू उर्फ रिंदा का करीबी सहयोगी है।

- DGP Yadav described the arrest as a major milestone in the ongoing crackdown on ISI-backed terror networks.



डीजीपी यादव ने इस गिरफ्तारी को आईएसआई समर्थित आतंकवादी नेटवर्क के खिलाफ जारी कार्रवाई में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि बताया।

- Between 2023–2025, Happy Passia played a **central role** in **targeted killings, grenade attacks on police establishments, and extortion activities** across Punjab and other States.

2023 से 2025 के बीच हैप्पी पसिया ने पंजाब और अन्य राज्यों में टारगेट किलिंग, पुलिस ठिकानों पर ग्रेनेड हमलों, और वसूली गतिविधियों में मुख्य भूमिका निभाई।

- His arrest was possible due to **strong international cooperation and intelligence sharing** between the **United States and India**.

उसकी गिरफ्तारी संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और भारत के बीच मजबूत अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग और सूचना साझा करने के कारण संभव हुई।

Terror Background and Reward

आतंकवाद पृष्ठभूमि और इनाम

- Passia, a **29-year-old gangster-turned-terrorist**, was allegedly involved in **16 terror attacks**, including **14 grenade attacks** in Punjab.

29 वर्षीय गैंगस्टर से आतंकवादी बना पसिया, 16 आतंकी हमलों, जिनमें से 14 ग्रेनेड हमले पंजाब में हुए, में शामिल था।

- The NIA had announced a **reward of ₹5 lakh** for his arrest in connection with a **hand grenade attack** in Chandigarh in **September 2024**.

एनआईए ने सितंबर 2024 में चंडीगढ़ में हैंड ग्रेनेड हमले के मामले में उसकी गिरफ्तारी पर ₹5 लाख का इनाम घोषित किया था।

Timeline of Movements

यात्रा का समयक्रम

- According to the agencies, he went to **Dubai in April 2018**, returned in **February 2019**, then moved to the **UK in October 2020**, and later shifted to the **U.S**.

एजेंसियों के अनुसार, वह पहले अप्रैल 2018 में दुबई गया, फरवरी 2019 में लौटा, फिर अक्टूबर 2020 में यूके गया और बाद में अमेरिका चला गया।

- Initially, he was associated with **Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang**, after which he came into contact with **Rinda**.

शुरुआत में वह जग्गू भगवानपुरिया गिरोह से जुड़ा था, इसके बाद उसकी रिंदा से मुलाकात हुई।

- **Rinda fled to Pakistan in 2018–19**, where he got involved in **arms and explosives smuggling, and drug trafficking** into India.

2018–19 में रिंदा पाकिस्तान भाग गया, जहां उसने हथियारों, विस्फोटकों और ड्रग्स की तस्करी में भारत में घुसपैठ शुरू की।



- Together, Rinda and Happy Passia are believed to have masterminded multiple terrorist operations.

रिंदा और हैप्पी पसिया को कई आतंकी घटनाओं का मास्टरमाइंड माना जाता है।

Burner Phones to Evade Capture

गिरफ्तारी से बचने के लिए बर्नर फोन

- Burner phones are inexpensive, prepaid mobile devices that can be purchased without providing personal identification.

बर्नर फोन सस्ते, प्रीपेड मोबाइल डिवाइस होते हैं जिन्हें बिना किसी व्यक्तिगत पहचान के खरीदा जा सकता है।

- They are often used temporarily and discarded after use, making them appealing for activities requiring anonymity.

इनका उपयोग आमतौर पर अस्थायी रूप से किया जाता है और उपयोग के बाद फेंक दिया जाता है, जिससे ये गुमनाम गतिविधियों के लिए आकर्षक बन जाते हैं।

Use in Evasion

गिरफ्तारी से बचने में उपयोग

- Criminals may use burner phones to avoid detection, as these devices are not linked to their identities.

अपराधी इन फोन का उपयोग पता लगाने से बचने के लिए कर सकते हैं, क्योंकि ये डिवाइस उनकी पहचान से नहीं जुड़े होते।

- By frequently changing phones and numbers, they aim to prevent law enforcement from tracking their communications.

वे बार-बार फोन और नंबर बदलकर, कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों को अपनी संचार गतिविधियों को ट्रैक करने से रोकने का प्रयास करते हैं।

Law Enforcement Tracking Methods

कानून प्रवर्तन द्वारा निगरानी के तरीके

- Despite their anonymity, burner phones can still be traced using various techniques.

इनकी गुमनामी के बावजूद, बर्नर फोन को विभिन्न तकनीकों का उपयोग करके ट्रैक किया जा सकता है।

- Call Detail Records (CDRs): Analyzing metadata such as call times, durations, and numbers dialed.

कॉल डिटेल रिकॉर्ड (CDRs): कॉल का समय, अवधि, और डायल किए गए नंबरों जैसे मेटाडेटा का विश्लेषण किया जाता है।



- **Location Tracking:** Using cell tower triangulation to determine the phone's location.
स्थान ट्रैकिंग: सेल टावर त्रिकोण विधि का उपयोग करके फोन के स्थान का पता लगाया जाता है।
- **Surveillance Tools:** Employing devices like Stingrays to mimic cell towers and intercept signals.
निगरानी उपकरण: स्टिंगरे जैसे डिवाइस का उपयोग करके सेल टावर की नकल की जाती है और सिग्नल इंटरसेप्ट किए जाते हैं।

Steering the decarbonisation of India's logistics sector

GS Paper III: Environment

Viksit Bharat is not just a vision. It is a commitment to having a stronger, self-reliant India by 2047. At its core lies inclusive development, ensuring that growth reaches every citizen, every business, and every region. But can we truly achieve this goal without a logistics sector that is large, efficient and future-ready? From seamless supply chains to last-mile connectivity, an efficient, scalable logistics network is the strength of equitable and sustained progress.

In this growth journey, while infrastructure, efficiency and accessibility are crucial for an inclusive logistics sector, there is one factor that cannot be overlooked – the environment and its prioritisation are absolutely necessary to build a future-ready, resilient logistics network. India's logistics sector, now one of the most carbon-intensive in the world, must undergo a green transformation. As the nation moves towards a net zero carbon emission by 2070, it is imperative to reduce emissions of transportation, warehousing, and supply chain emissions.

Carbon cost of mobility

This sector bears the brunt of intense carbon emissions, mainly from oil combustion. It contributes about 13.5% of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport alone making up over 88% (International Energy Agency (IEA), 2020). Nearly 90% of passenger travel and 70% of freight movement are dependent on roads, with trucks responsible for 38% of CO₂ emissions (IEA, 2023).

Domestic aviation accounts for around 4%, while coastal and inland shipping adds to the emissions load but is significantly less than the road freight movement. Government policies envisage a rapid expansion by 2030 – cargo and passenger movement on inland waterways is set to triple, and coastal shipping cargo movement will increase by 1.2 times. This growth not only



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India's logistics sector, which is one of the most carbon-intensive in the world, needs to undergo a green transformation

fuels economic momentum but also maintains its scalability and sustainability goals.

However, this issue is not just restricted to road freight movement. The warehousing sector, which supports freight movement, is another major emitter. Together, these factors create a pressing issue. How we strike the right balance between growth and sustainability is the question. The time to act is now.

Futuristic approaches

Global examples provide a strong foundation for this transition, with countries such as China and the United States successfully shifting freight transport from road to rail. Rail freight significantly reduces emissions compared to road transport. China has invested heavily in expanding its rail network, and the share of the railways is almost 50%. The United States has also embraced this shift, making rail one of the early decarbonised freight options. India should enhance the share of the railways in freight transport to reduce emissions and improve efficiency – rail has been an early adopter of electrification and is a more sustainable, almost zero-carbon emission mode of transport.

Road freight transport cannot be overlooked, and needs a focused structural change to make it cleaner. India has already taken a bold step in this direction with a recent initiative by the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways – the introduction of overhead electric wires along highways to power electric trucks. The first pilot project on the Delhi-Jaipur corridor could be a breakthrough in reducing emissions from freight movement while ensuring high efficiency and economic viability.

Coastal shipping and inland waterways have immense potential for decarbonisation. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) aims to slash global shipping emissions by 50% by 2050 (compared to 2008 levels), pushing

industry to adopt cleaner fuels such as ammonia, hydrogen, LNG, biofuels, methanol, and electricity. India can fast-track its green transition by introducing LNG-powered vessels, solar-assisted electric boats, and even electric or biofuel-run barges. These emission-cutting steps can keep freight movement efficient and sustainable.

Air transport remains one of the hardest sectors to decarbonise due to its heavy reliance on refined fuels, making the transition a costly challenge. However, advancements in sustainable aviation fuels and efficiency improvements in other transport modes could help offset emissions.

Warehousing, often outweaving in the carbon equation, is another significant contributor to emissions due to high energy consumption. Transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal power can drastically cut the carbon footprint of warehouses.

Moving ahead

Decarbonising India's logistics sector is not just about cutting emissions. It is about building a more competitive, resilient and future-ready industry. India's logistics sector is on the brink of a transformation, and decarbonisation is the key to ensuring sustainable growth. By scaling up rail freight, electrifying road transport, adopting cleaner maritime fuels, and making warehouses more energy-efficient, India can build a high-performing logistics network with a reduced environmental impact. The time to act is now, and with the right policies and investments, India can lead the way in creating a cleaner, greener, and more efficient logistics ecosystem.

The road to a greener future has been paved. It is now time to accelerate.

The views expressed are personal

Steering the Decarbonisation of India's Logistics Sector

भारत के लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र का डीकार्बनाइजेशन की ओर मार्गदर्शन

Viksit Bharat and the Logistics Vision

विकसित भारत और लॉजिस्टिक्स की दृष्टि



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- Viksit Bharat is not just a vision; it is a **commitment** to building a **stronger, self-reliant India by 2047**.
विकसित भारत केवल एक दृष्टि नहीं है; यह 2047 तक एक मजबूत और आत्मनिर्भर भारत बनाने की प्रतिबद्धता है।
- At its core lies **inclusive development**, ensuring that **growth reaches every citizen, every business, and every region**.
इसके मूल में समावेशी विकास है, जो यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि विकास हर नागरिक, हर व्यवसाय और हर क्षेत्र तक पहुँचे।
- A **large, efficient, and future-ready logistics sector** is essential to achieve this goal.
इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए एक बड़ा, कुशल और भविष्य के लिए तैयार लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र आवश्यक है।
- From **seamless supply chains to last-mile connectivity**, logistics is the **backbone of equitable and sustained progress**.
सपाट आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं से लेकर अंतिम छोर तक की कनेक्टिविटी तक, लॉजिस्टिक्स समान और सतत प्रगति की रीढ़ है।

Environmental Priority in Logistics

लॉजिस्टिक्स में पर्यावरण को प्राथमिकता देना

- While infrastructure, efficiency, and accessibility are crucial, the **environment** is a **non-negotiable priority** for a **resilient and future-ready logistics network**.
जबकि ढांचा, दक्षता और पहुंच महत्वपूर्ण हैं, एक लचीले और भविष्य के लिए तैयार लॉजिस्टिक्स नेटवर्क के लिए पर्यावरण एक अपरिहार्य प्राथमिकता है।
- India's logistics sector is now among the **most carbon-intensive** in the world.
भारत का लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र अब दुनिया के सबसे अधिक कार्बन उत्सर्जन वाले क्षेत्रों में शामिल है।
- India aims for **net-zero carbon emissions by 2070**, making **green transformation** of logistics essential.
भारत का लक्ष्य 2070 तक नेट-ज़ीरो कार्बन उत्सर्जन का है, जिससे लॉजिस्टिक्स का हरित परिवर्तन आवश्यक बन जाता है।
- This transformation must cover **transportation, warehousing, and supply chain emissions**.
यह परिवर्तन परिवहन, वेयरहाउसिंग और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला के उत्सर्जन को शामिल करना चाहिए।

Carbon Cost of Mobility

गतिशीलता की कार्बन लागत

- The logistics sector is heavily impacted by **carbon emissions**, especially from **oil combustion**.
लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र कार्बन उत्सर्जन, विशेषकर तेल दहन से बुरी तरह प्रभावित है।



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- It contributes about **13.5%** of India's total **greenhouse gas emissions**.
यह भारत के कुल ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन का लगभग **13.5%** योगदान देता है।
- **Road transport alone** accounts for over **88%** of this emission.
केवल सड़क परिवहन ही इस उत्सर्जन का **88%** से अधिक हिस्सा रखता है।
- Nearly **90% of passenger travel** and **70% of freight movement** rely on roads.
लगभग **90%** यात्री यात्रा और **70%** माल परिवहन सड़कों पर निर्भर है।
- **Trucks** are responsible for **38% of CO₂ emissions** in road transport.
सड़क परिवहन में ट्रक **38% CO₂ उत्सर्जन** के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।
- **Domestic aviation** contributes around **4%**, while **coastal and inland shipping** add lesser but still notable emissions.
घरेलू विमानन लगभग **4%** योगदान करता है, जबकि तटीय और अंतर्देशीय शिपिंग भी थोड़ा लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण उत्सर्जन करती है।
- **Government policies plan to triple inland waterway traffic** and **increase coastal cargo by 1.2 times by 2030**.
सरकारी नीतियाँ **2030 तक अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग यातायात को तीन गुना और तटीय कार्गो को 1.2 गुना बढ़ाने** की योजना बना रही हैं।
- This growth supports both **economic momentum** and **sustainability goals**.
यह वृद्धि **आर्थिक गति और सतत विकास लक्ष्यों** दोनों को समर्थन देती है।

Warehousing and Emissions

वेयरहाउसिंग और उत्सर्जन

- The **warehousing sector**, which supports freight movement, is another **major carbon emitter**.
माल ढुलाई का समर्थन करने वाला **वेयरहाउसिंग क्षेत्र** भी एक **प्रमुख कार्बन उत्सर्जक** है।
- Together, **road freight and warehousing** create a **pressing environmental issue**.
सड़क माल परिवहन और वेयरहाउसिंग मिलकर एक **गंभीर पर्यावरणीय समस्या** पैदा करते हैं।
- Balancing **growth and sustainability** is the key challenge.
विकास और स्थिरता के बीच संतुलन बनाना प्रमुख चुनौती है।

The Time to Act Is Now

अब कार्य करने का समय है

- There is an urgent need to decarbonise India's logistics sector to ensure a **resilient, inclusive, and sustainable growth model**.
भारत के लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र का डीकार्बनाइजेशन करना आवश्यक है ताकि एक **लचीला, समावेशी और सतत विकास मॉडल** सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

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Futuristic Approaches भविष्यवादी दृष्टिकोण

- **Global examples provide a strong foundation** for the transition to a greener logistics sector.
वैश्विक उदाहरण लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र को हरित बनाने के लिए एक मजबूत आधार प्रदान करते हैं।
- Countries like **China and the United States** have successfully **shifted freight transport from road to rail**.
चीन और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका जैसे देशों ने माल परिवहन को सड़क से रेल की ओर स्थानांतरित करने में सफलता प्राप्त की है।
- **Rail freight significantly reduces emissions** compared to road transport.
रेल माल परिवहन, सड़क परिवहन की तुलना में उत्सर्जन को काफी हद तक कम करता है।
- China has made **heavy investments** in rail network expansion, and the **railways share is nearly 50%**.
चीन ने रेल नेटवर्क के विस्तार में भारी निवेश किया है, और रेलवे की हिस्सेदारी लगभग 50% है।
- The United States has also made rail **one of the early decarbonised freight options**.
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने भी रेल को प्रारंभिक डीकार्बनाइज्ड माल विकल्पों में से एक बनाया है।
- India should **increase the share of railways** in freight transport to cut emissions and improve efficiency.
भारत को उत्सर्जन कम करने और दक्षता बढ़ाने के लिए माल परिवहन में रेलवे की हिस्सेदारी बढ़ानी चाहिए।
- Rail is a **sustainable and almost zero-carbon** mode of transport due to early adoption of electrification.
रेल, विद्युतिकरण के प्रारंभिक उपयोग के कारण, एक सतत और लगभग शून्य-कार्बन परिवहन साधन है।

Reforming Road Freight Transport सड़क माल परिवहन में सुधार

- Road freight cannot be ignored and needs **structural reforms** to make it cleaner.
सड़क माल परिवहन को नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता और इसे स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए संरचनात्मक सुधारों की आवश्यकता है।
- India has taken a **bold step** with the introduction of **overhead electric wires** for **electric trucks**.
भारत ने इलेक्ट्रिक ट्रकों के लिए ओवरहेड विद्युत तारों की शुरुआत करके एक साहसिक कदम उठाया है।
- The **first pilot project** is on the **Delhi-Jaipur corridor**, which could be a **breakthrough** in reducing freight emissions.
पहला पायलट प्रोजेक्ट दिल्ली-जयपुर कॉरिडोर पर है, जो माल परिवहन में उत्सर्जन कम करने में एक बड़ी उपलब्धि हो सकती है।



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- This project aims to ensure **high efficiency** and **economic viability**.
यह परियोजना उच्च दक्षता और आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता सुनिश्चित करने का लक्ष्य रखती है।

Decarbonising Coastal and Inland Waterways

तटीय और अंतर्देशीय जलमार्गों का डीकार्बनाइजेशन

- **Coastal shipping and inland waterways** have **huge potential** for decarbonisation.
तटीय शिपिंग और अंतर्देशीय जलमार्गों में डीकार्बनाइजेशन की अपार संभावनाएं हैं।
- The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** plans to reduce **global shipping emissions by 50% by 2050**.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुद्री संगठन (IMO) का लक्ष्य है कि 2050 तक वैश्विक शिपिंग उत्सर्जन को 50% तक कम किया जाए।
- This move is encouraging the industry to adopt **cleaner fuels like ammonia, hydrogen, LNG, biofuels, methanol, and electricity**.
यह कदम उद्योग को अमोनिया, हाइड्रोजन, LNG, जैव ईंधन, मेथनॉल और बिजली जैसे स्वच्छ ईंधनों को अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित कर रहा है।
- India can accelerate the green shift by using **LNG-powered vessels, solar-assisted electric boats, and biofuel-run barges**.
भारत LNG चालित जहाजों, सौर-सहायता प्राप्त इलेक्ट्रिक नौकाओं, और जैव ईंधन से चलने वाले बार्ज के उपयोग से हरित बदलाव को तेज कर सकता है।
- These measures will ensure **efficient and sustainable** freight movement.
ये उपाय कुशल और सतत माल परिवहन सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

Challenges in Air Transport Decarbonisation

वायु परिवहन के डीकार्बनाइजेशन में चुनौतियाँ

- **Air transport** is one of the **hardest sectors** to decarbonise due to **heavy reliance on refined fuels**.
वायु परिवहन, परिष्कृत ईंधनों पर भारी निर्भरता के कारण सबसे कठिन क्षेत्रों में से एक है जिसे डीकार्बनाइज करना मुश्किल है।
- The transition is **expensive**, but **sustainable aviation fuels** and **efficiency improvements** may help.
यह परिवर्तन महंगा है, लेकिन सतत विमानन ईंधन और दक्षता सुधार इसमें सहायता कर सकते हैं।

Greening the Warehousing Sector

वेयरहाउसिंग क्षेत्र को हरित बनाना

- **Warehousing** is a **significant carbon emitter** due to **high energy usage**.
वेयरहाउसिंग, उच्च ऊर्जा खपत के कारण महत्वपूर्ण कार्बन उत्सर्जक है।



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- Switching to **renewable energy sources** such as **solar, wind, and geothermal** can cut emissions drastically.
सौर, पवन और भूतापीय जैसे नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्रोतों की ओर बदलाव उत्सर्जन को काफी कम कर सकता है।

Moving Ahead

आगे की राह

- **Decarbonising logistics** is not just about cutting emissions — it is about creating a **competitive, resilient, and future-ready** sector.
लॉजिस्टिक्स का डीकार्बनाइजेशन केवल उत्सर्जन कम करने के लिए नहीं, बल्कि एक प्रतिस्पर्धी, लचीला और भविष्य के लिए तैयार क्षेत्र बनाने के लिए है।
- India's logistics sector is on the verge of **transformation**, and decarbonisation is the **key to sustainable growth**.
भारत का लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र परिवर्तन के कगार पर है, और डीकार्बनाइजेशन सतत विकास की कुंजी है।
- By boosting **rail freight, electrifying road transport, using clean maritime fuels, and improving warehouse energy efficiency**, India can reduce environmental impact.
रेल माल परिवहन को बढ़ाकर, सड़क परिवहन का विद्युतिकरण करके, स्वच्छ समुद्री ईंधनों का उपयोग करके, और वेयरहाउस की ऊर्जा दक्षता सुधारकर, भारत पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को कम कर सकता है।
- **The time to act is now**. With the **right policies and investments**, India can lead the world in creating a **cleaner, greener, and more efficient logistics ecosystem**.
अब कार्य करने का समय है। सही नीतियों और निवेश के साथ भारत स्वच्छ, हरित और अधिक कुशल लॉजिस्टिक्स पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाने में दुनिया का नेतृत्व कर सकता है।
- **The road to a greener future is ready — now it's time to accelerate**.
हरित भविष्य की राह तैयार है — अब इसे तेज़ करने का समय है।



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'Indian electronics manufacture trusted for respecting IP'

GS Paper III

The Hindu Bureau
MANESAR, HARYANA

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said Indian electronics manufacturers benefit from reliability and a respect for foreign firms' intellectual property (IP) rights. "In the last 10 years, production [of electronics] in India has increased five times to ₹11 lakh crore," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Minister was in Manesar for much of the day to inaugurate the Surface Mount Technology (SMT) line of VVDN Technologies, a firm that works on assembly operations for products like servers, laptops, printed circuit boards (PCBs), and CCTV cameras.

SMT is a technology to embed smaller components on PCBs. The firm has over 5,000 staff in Manesar to work on electronics manufacturing.

In India, "we have talent that can be used in design capabilities," Mr. Vaishnaw said, pointing to VVDN's workforce. "There are three levels of workforce required in electronics manufacturing," he said: on-site workers who can be trained quickly from ground up, precision tooling engineers and designing advanced components.

For the last bit, Mr. Vaishnaw said, electronic design automation tools had been acquired by the government and given free of cost to 240 universities.

Indian Electronics Manufacture Trusted for Respecting IP

बौद्धिक संपदा का सम्मान करने के लिए भारतीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माण पर भरोसा

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Indian electronics manufacturers benefit from reliability and a respect for foreign firms' intellectual property (IP) rights.

केंद्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कहा कि भारतीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माता अपनी विश्वसनीयता और विदेशी कंपनियों की बौद्धिक संपदा (IP) अधिकारों का सम्मान करने के कारण लाभ प्राप्त करते हैं।

• "In the last 10 years, production of electronics in India has increased five times to ₹11 lakh crore," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

श्री वैष्णव ने कहा, "पिछले 10 वर्षों में भारत में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स उत्पादन 5 गुना बढ़कर ₹11 लाख करोड़ हो गया है।"

• The Minister was in Manesar for much of the day to inaugurate the Surface Mount Technology (SMT) line of VVDN Technologies.

मंत्री दिनभर मानेसर में वीवीडीएन टेक्नोलॉजीज की सरफेस माउंट टेक्नोलॉजी (SMT) लाइन का उद्घाटन करने के लिए मौजूद थे।

• VVDN Technologies works on assembly operations for products like servers, laptops, printed circuit boards (PCBs), and CCTV cameras.

वीवीडीएन टेक्नोलॉजीज का कार्यक्षेत्र सर्वर, लैपटॉप, प्रिंटेड सर्किट बोर्ड (पीसीबी), और सीसीटीवी कैमरा जैसे उत्पादों की असंबली संचालन से जुड़ा हुआ है।

• SMT is a technology used to embed smaller components on PCBs.

SMT एक ऐसी तकनीक है जिसका उपयोग पीसीबी पर छोटे घटकों को जोड़ने के लिए किया जाता है।

• The firm has over 5,000 staff in Manesar working in electronics manufacturing.

कंपनी के पास मानेसर में 5,000 से अधिक कर्मचारी हैं जो इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माण में कार्यरत हैं।

• Mr. Vaishnaw said that India has talent that can be used for design capabilities, referring to VVDN's workforce.

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श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि भारत में डिज़ाइन क्षमताओं के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा सकने वाला प्रतिभाशाली कार्यबल मौजूद है, जैसा कि उन्होंने वीडियो के कर्मचारियों की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा।

- “There are **three levels** of workforce required in **electronics manufacturing**,” he said: उन्होंने कहा कि इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माण में तीन स्तरों की कार्यशक्ति की आवश्यकता होती है:
- – **Onsite workers** who can be trained quickly from the ground up.
 - साइट पर कार्य करने वाले कर्मचारी, जिन्हें शुरू से ही शीघ्रता से प्रशिक्षित किया जा सकता है।

– **Precision tooling engineers.**

– सटीक उपकरण इंजीनियर।

– **Designers of advanced components.**

– उन्नत घटकों के डिज़ाइनर।

- For advanced design work, **electronic design automation tools** have been acquired by the **government** and provided **free of cost** to **240 universities**.
उन्नत डिज़ाइन कार्य के लिए, सरकार ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक डिज़ाइन ऑटोमेशन टूल्स प्राप्त किए हैं और उन्हें 240 विश्वविद्यालयों को निःशुल्क उपलब्ध कराया गया है।



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GS Paper III: Cyber Security

A welcome move

Arbitrary takedown orders on Wikipedia will stifle flow of information

The Supreme Court, in quashing the Delhi High Court's orders against Wikimedia to take down a Wikipedia page on the basis of a defamation case filed by the news agency, Asian News International (ANI), has set right an error by the High Court. A High Court judgment, passed on April 2, allowed the taking down of the Wikipedia page by saying that the statements were defamatory and were not a verbatim reproduction of the text in the references that it quoted; that the references were themselves "editorials" or "opinionated articles" and that being an encyclopaedia, Wikipedia carried a "higher responsibility". The reasoning is problematic as the references are based on long form reporting and quotes from independent investigators, and are not "opinions" or "editorials" as the High Court made them out to be. The Court has clearly differed with the High Court's reasoning by observing that the takedown order was based on too wide a prayer, and noted that the directions to remove all false, misleading and defamatory content were too broadly worded. The Bench has now directed the news agency to make a fresh plea to the High Court pointing out specific portions to be removed from the webpage. The fact that Wikipedia is an Internet intermediary which enjoys safe harbour provisions as the content creation and moderation are handled by users of its site should suggest that any wide-ranging takedown order could punish the very model on which the encyclopaedia operates.

Wikipedia is a community-driven encyclopaedia freely available on the Internet and is maintained by volunteers across the world. Even if the quality of articles is not uniform, their editors generally include experts and Wikipedia allows users to edit the content provided they stick to site guidelines. Disputes on content leading to "editing wars" are generally resolved by discussions on the page and measures such as placing the page on "extended confirmed protection" or "full protection", allowing only "extended confirmed users" for the former and administrators for the latter to make changes. These users are not selected by Wikimedia but elected by community members based on their prior editing activity and reputation. These processes have ensured a significant degree of reliability on the encyclopaedia, even as it has become a repository of more than 62.95 million articles in over 350 languages. In asking for the takedown of articles by interpreting critical information as defamation and by even threatening penal action against Wikipedia, judicial actions could unwittingly lead to the stifling of open discussion of entities on the encyclopaedia, thereby acting against the interest of the free flow of information.

A Welcome Move

एक स्वागत योग्य कदम

The Supreme Court has overturned the Delhi High Court's order that directed Wikimedia to take down a Wikipedia page based on a defamation case filed by Asian News International (ANI).

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एशियन न्यूज़ इंटरनेशनल (ANI) द्वारा दायर मानहानि के मामले के आधार पर विकिमीडिया को विकिपीडिया पेज हटाने का निर्देश देने वाले दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट के आदेश को रद्द कर दिया।

• This action by the Supreme Court corrected a legal error made by the High Court.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट की इस कार्रवाई ने हाई कोर्ट द्वारा की गई कानूनी त्रुटि को ठीक किया।

• The High Court's judgment, passed on April 2, justified the takedown by claiming that the statements were defamatory and not verbatim reproductions of their references.

2 अप्रैल को पारित हाई कोर्ट के फैसले ने तर्क दिया कि उक्त कथन

मानहानिकारक थे और उनके स्रोतों की शाब्दिक प्रतिलिपि नहीं थे।

• The High Court also stated that the references were merely editorials or opinionated articles, and since Wikipedia is an encyclopaedia, it has a higher responsibility.

हाई कोर्ट ने यह भी कहा कि संदर्भ केवल संपादकीय या राय-आधारित लेख थे, और चूंकि विकिपीडिया एक विश्वकोश है, इसलिए उस पर अधिक जिम्मेदारी बनती है।

• This reasoning is flawed, as the references were based on long-form reporting and quotes from independent investigators, not personal opinions.

यह तर्क त्रुटिपूर्ण है, क्योंकि संदर्भ लंबे रिपोर्टिंग लेखों और स्वतंत्र जांचकर्ताओं के उद्धरणों पर आधारित थे, न कि व्यक्तिगत राय पर।

• The Supreme Court found that the takedown order was based on a broad prayer, and the directions to remove all false, misleading, and defamatory content were too vague.

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सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पाया कि पेज हटाने का आदेश बहुत व्यापक अनुरोध पर आधारित था, और झूठी, भ्रामक और मानहानिकारक सामग्री हटाने का निर्देश अत्यधिक अस्पष्ट था।

- The **Bench** has now instructed the news agency to submit a **fresh plea** identifying **specific portions** to be removed.

अब पीठ ने समाचार एजेंसी को नई याचिका दायर करने को कहा है जिसमें विशेष अंशों को हटाने की मांग की जाए।

Wikipedia as an Internet Intermediary

इंटरनेट मध्यस्थ के रूप में विकिपीडिया

- Wikipedia functions as an **Internet intermediary** and benefits from **safe harbour provisions**, as content is created and moderated by its **users**.
विकिपीडिया एक इंटरनेट मध्यस्थ के रूप में कार्य करता है और सुरक्षित आश्रय प्रावधानों से लाभान्वित होता है, क्योंकि सामग्री इसके उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा बनाई और संपादित की जाती है।
- A broad takedown order could harm the **fundamental model** of how Wikipedia operates.
एक व्यापक हटाने का आदेश विकिपीडिया के मूल मॉडल को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है।
- Wikipedia is a **community-driven encyclopaedia**, maintained by **volunteers** globally and freely available on the Internet.
विकिपीडिया एक सामुदायिक रूप से संचालित विश्वकोश है, जो दुनियाभर के स्वयंसेवकों द्वारा बनाए रखा जाता है और इंटरनेट पर निःशुल्क उपलब्ध है।
- Even though article quality varies, many editors are **experts**, and anyone can edit content by following **site guidelines**.
हालांकि लेखों की गुणवत्ता अलग-अलग हो सकती है, लेकिन कई संपादक विशेषज्ञ होते हैं, और कोई भी व्यक्ति साइट दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करके सामग्री संपादित कर सकता है।
- Content disputes leading to **editing wars** are usually resolved through **discussions** and measures such as “**extended confirmed protection**” or “**full protection**.”
संपादन विवादों को आमतौर पर चर्चाओं और “विस्तारित पुष्टि सुरक्षा” या “पूर्ण सुरक्षा” जैसे उपायों के माध्यम से सुलझाया जाता है।
- “Extended confirmed protection” allows only **experienced users**, and “full protection” restricts edits to **administrators**.
“विस्तारित पुष्टि सुरक्षा” केवल अनुभवी उपयोगकर्ताओं को अनुमति देती है, जबकि “पूर्ण सुरक्षा” में केवल प्रशासक ही संपादन कर सकते हैं।
- These **users are elected** by the **Wikipedia community**, based on **editing history and reputation**, not by Wikimedia Foundation.
ये उपयोगकर्ता विकिपीडिया समुदाय द्वारा उनके संपादन इतिहास और प्रतिष्ठा के आधार पर चुने जाते हैं, न कि विकिमीडिया फाउंडेशन द्वारा नियुक्त किए जाते हैं।
- Due to these mechanisms, Wikipedia maintains a **significant level of reliability**, housing over **62.95 million articles** in **350+ languages**.



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इन प्रणालियों के कारण, विकिपीडिया में 350 से अधिक भाषाओं में 62.95 मिलियन से अधिक लेख उपलब्ध हैं, और यह एक विश्वसनीय स्रोत बना हुआ है।

Threats to Free Flow of Information

सूचना के मुक्त प्रवाह पर खतरा

- Using **judicial action** to interpret **critical information** as **defamation** and threatening **penal consequences** can suppress **open discussion** on Wikipedia.
न्यायिक कार्रवाई द्वारा महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी को मानहानि के रूप में व्याख्यायित करना और दंडात्मक परिणामों की धमकी देना, विकिपीडिया पर खुली चर्चा को दबा सकता है।

Such actions go **against the free flow of information**, which is central to an open and democratic Internet.

इस प्रकार की कार्रवाइयाँ सूचना के मुक्त प्रवाह के विरुद्ध हैं, जो एक खुले और लोकतांत्रिक इंटरनेट की मूल भावना हैं।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Life under the Big Top and Beyond

सर्कस के रंगीन मंच के नीचे की ज़िंदगी और उसके आगे

2. U.S. Judge Limits Musk's DOGE Access to Social Security Data

अमेरिकी न्यायाधीश ने मस्क की DOGE एजेंसी की सामाजिक सुरक्षा डेटा तक पहुंच सीमित की



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**Life under
the big top
and beyond**

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As the circus industry heads to its sunset years, **Nainu Oommen** meets a few former artists at their camps and homes in Kannur to rekindle the memories of their golden days in the ring and on the trapeze. **April 19 is World Circus Day.**

Lying on his bed cushioned with folded sheets and towels, Babutti, the yesterday star among the circus artists of Thalassery, vividly remembers the day his life changed forever.

It was the 28th day of September, 2002. A youthful Babutti, dressed in flashy costumes, enthusiastically waved to the crowd from the circus ring. The crowd roared back in appreciation on seeing the 'superstar' of the circus ring. The galleries of Gemini Circus in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, were packed to capacity.

He was to perform a cross-passing routine, a daring act in which one performer swings up on the ropes while the other comes down, with the help of two catchers set to catch and release the artists.

Unfortunately, while swinging down, one performer failed to let go of the catcher on time, forcing them to grab Babutti with only one hand. The catcher couldn't hold him. As his grip loosened, Babutti suddenly slipped out of the catcher's hand and fell on the side of the net on his back.

His world comes crashing down

A moment of deafening silence ensued. Then the crowd let out a collective gasp. There was panic everywhere. The world came to a standstill for Babutti.

"When I regained consciousness, I could feel a numbness down my spine. I tried in vain to move my limbs," recalls a worn-out Babutti, who has been bedridden for 23 years.

It was poverty that drove him and his elder sister, Sheela, to the circus owned by his neighbour M.V. Sankaran, the founder of Gemini Circus. "Back in those days, there would be five or six children in a family, and one or two would be sent to the circus," these children would work there, and their parents would raise the other children with the earnings from the circus," explains N.K. Vijayendran, a senior circus artiste, sitting next to Babutti.

Ramanathan, now a septuagenarian, was born into the circus. His parents, Raghavan and Devali, were circus artists. "My father owned Ranjini Circus. Of my 10 siblings, only I joined the circus," recounts Ramanathan, as he limps back home along the country roads of Thalassery. The fall he suffered a few days ago has left him partially limping. Ramanathan is now a shadow of his better years. So is the circus industry.

SC order, a bolt from the blue

The downfall of the Indian circus, say elder artists, began 14 years ago when the Supreme Court banned the employment of children and adolescents below 18 years in circus.

This left the circus camps populated with greying artists, with some taking up jobs as trainers. The local artists were replaced with those from Nepal, Africa and Russia.

"Sankarettan (M.V. Sankaran) treated us like his own children. The company regularly brought us food and clothes and paid a weekly allowance. The food was great as well. On Sundays, we feasted on chocolate," remembers Ramanathan.

PCS
We performed in Malaysia and Singapore, places we would never have gone otherwise. Our shows were held in almost all major cities in India

VIJAYALAKSHMI who joined Great Oriental Circus at the age of four

K. Narayanan, once popularly known as 'Flying Trapeze' Narayanan, joined the circus when he was a Class 5 student. "I did not want to study at that age. Also, we didn't have enough resources to meet my educational expenses," says Narayanan.

For many women like Vijayalakshmi, a native of Thalassery, who didn't pursue her education, a job at the circus was an opportunity to earn an income. She joined the Great Oriental Circus at the age of four. Her aunt took her there.

Seeing the world through circus

She remembers how the job took her to places such as Malaysia and Singapore where she wouldn't have gone otherwise. "We travelled all across India and performed in almost all major cities," she says.

The artiste, who once used to do balancing acts and ride bicycles on tightly stretched ropes, recalls bringing home a Panasonic radio after a Singapore tour a few decades ago and how her family and neighbours flocked to it.

Uma Devi, a native of Thalassery, who grew up watching her father, Koran, train other circus artists, faced stiff resistance when she expressed her desire to be a circus artiste. Her persistence won, and she eventually joined the industry. However, Uma was asked to quit the ring at the age of 19, as her father wanted her to get married and settle down. A few years later, Uma tied the knot with a circus artiste, 'Springnet' Narayanan, who was also not keen on her continuing in the circus.

Fate willed otherwise as Narayanan was seriously injured during a practice session of the team in Patna. "He was badly wounded in the accident. I still remember taking him to a nearby hospital, all drenched in blood," recounts Uma.

Narayanan had to undergo prolonged medical treatment, and poverty forced their children, Reena and Preeja, aged four and six, to join circus. "I performed in the ring for 20 more years. With the little money that I earned, I funded my husband's treatment and married off my daughters," she says. Yet, she's far from being contented. "I couldn't save anything for old age."

Meagre monthly pension

Many artists got parcels of land from the circus owners. Vijayalakshmi is one among them and she built a house on the holding. Some feel the circus artistes from Kerala are relatively better off than their counterparts in other States, thanks to the government decision to provide them a monthly pension of ₹1,600. In Kerala, as many as 1,113 retired circus artistes are being offered the pension, says P. Vishnuraj, Director of Sports and Youth Affairs.

Circus artistes, however, point out how difficult it is to thrive on such a meagre amount.

"Medicines and allied health-care expenses and the cost of living have shot up," says Babutti.

An earlier attempt by the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi to provide circus artistes with a medical insurance scheme had not made any headway. Divya S. Iyer, Director of



Tales of many hues: (clockwise from top) Trapeze artistes perform at the Great Bombay Circus in Thiruvananthapuram in 2022; Babutti, who was once the star of Gemini Circus; Nalini and Ramanathan, a circus artiste couple share their memories; K. Narayanan, who was popular as 'Flying Trapeze' Narayanan in his heyday. SREETHA R. KUMAR, NAINU OOMMEN

Cultural Affairs, hopes to revive the proposal. "We can take a re-look at the proposal for an insurance scheme," she says.

The downward slide of circuses and the artistes' lives was accelerated by the government decision to ban the use of animals in the trade in the late 90s.

Circus's proud processions

Though many units replaced animals with robotic ones, the move didn't hold much charm for circus enthusiasts. Industry veterans say that the excitement of watching elephants, bears, and lions perform is missing when robotic animals present the same acts.

"People used to come to the circus mostly to

PCS

When I regained consciousness after the fall from the trapeze, I could feel a numbness down my spine. I tried in vain to move my limbs

BABUTTY
Trapeze artiste bedridden for 23 years after a fall

watch the wild animals from close quarters," recounts K.P. Rajan, a trainer and mechanic with Jumbo Circus. "Earlier, we had 18 elephants at Jumbo Circus. Lions, bears, monkeys, and parrots were among the company's proud possessions. The ban on animals has hit us hard," says Rajan, sitting in a tent of the Jumbo Circus camp at Payyannur, Kannur, even as workers busily wrap up and load the circus properties into trucks.

Barring the big industry names like Gemini, Jumbo, Apollo, and Great Bombay Circus, most of the other players have left the scene for good. "The smaller circus groups in north India are struggling to stay afloat," says E. Ravindran, a trainer with Jumbo Circus.

"Life has gone out of this industry, which is in its sunset years. It's only a matter of time before the remaining companies too down the curtains. There are no new artistes, practice sessions, or trainers. The end is approaching fast," he adds.

Divya says circus has remained stagnant for long. "The industry couldn't keep up with the changing times. It needs to reinvent itself to stay relevant for the younger audience," says the bureaucrat.

A bit too late for revival

P.R. Nisha, author of the book *Jumbos and Jumping Devils: A Social History of Indian Circus* feels that it might be too late for the revival of the industry.

"I feel it's quite difficult for the circuses to recover from the impact of the ban on employing children and animals. Both decisions have spelt doom for the industry," she says.

Even veteran artistes admit that circus has lost its charm, which is nearly impossible to restore. "Circus doesn't thrill us any more," admits Nalini, a former artiste of the Great Rayman Circus.

Gone are the days when the arrival of the circus team in a town or the countryside created ripples in the area and people queued up to buy tickets. Like its greying artistes, the industry too is slowly yielding to the inevitable. Yet, the legacy left by the artistes and the art form should live long.

Life under the Big Top and Beyond

सर्कस के रंगीन मंच के नीचे की ज़िंदगी और उसके आगे

April 19 is World Circus Day

19 अप्रैल विश्व सर्कस दिवस है

A Life-Changing Fall

एक ज़िंदगी बदल देने वाली गिरावट



- Babutty, a former circus star from **Thalassery**, recalls how his life changed on **September 28, 2002**, during a performance at **Gemini Circus in Gwalior**. बाबुट्टी, जो थलास्सेरी के पूर्व सर्कस कलाकार हैं, याद करते हैं कि **28 सितंबर 2002** को ग्वालियर के जेमिनी सर्कस में प्रदर्शन के दौरान उनकी ज़िंदगी कैसे बदल गई।
- During a **cross-passing routine**, a mistake by a fellow performer caused Babutty to fall, hitting the **side of the net** on his **back**. एक क्रॉस-पासिंग रूटीन के दौरान एक साथी कलाकार की गलती से बाबुट्टी जाल के किनारे पर पीठ के बल गिर पड़े।
- The accident left him **bedridden for 23 years**, as he could not move his limbs after the fall. इस दुर्घटना के बाद वह **23 वर्षों से बिस्तर पर पड़े हैं**, क्योंकि वह अपने अंग नहीं हिला सके।

Joining Circus due to Poverty

गरीबी के कारण सर्कस से जुड़ाव

- Babutty and his sister Sheela joined the circus owned by **M.V. Sankaran**, the founder of **Gemini Circus**, due to **poverty**. बाबुट्टी और उनकी बहन शीला ने गरीबी के कारण जेमिनी सर्कस के संस्थापक एम. वी. शंकरन के सर्कस से जुड़ाव किया।
- **N.K. Vijayendran**, a senior artiste, explains that families with **5-6 children** often sent one or two to work in circuses to support the others. एन. के. विजयेन्द्रन, एक वरिष्ठ कलाकार बताते हैं कि जिन परिवारों में **5-6 बच्चे** होते थे, वे एक-दो बच्चों को सर्कस में भेज देते थे ताकि बाकी बच्चों का पालन-पोषण हो सके।

Born into the Circus Life

सर्कस जीवन में जन्म

- **Ramanathan**, now in his **70s**, was born to circus artistes **Raghavan and Devaki**. Out of **10 siblings**, only he joined the circus. अब **70 के दशक** में चल रहे रमणाथन का जन्म सर्कस कलाकारों राघवन और देवकी के घर हुआ था। **10 भाई-बहनों** में से केवल वही सर्कस में गए।



- A recent fall left him **limping**, and he represents the **decline of both artistes and the circus industry**. हाल ही में हुई गिरावट के कारण वह लंगड़ा कर चल रहे हैं, और वह कलाकारों और सर्कस उद्योग दोनों के पतन का प्रतीक हैं।

Supreme Court Order Impact

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश का प्रभाव

- The **Supreme Court** banned employment of children below **18 years** in circuses **14 years ago**. 14 साल पहले, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सर्कसों में 18 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों के काम करने पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।
- This led to fewer local artistes and more foreign performers from **Nepal, Africa, and Russia**. इससे स्थानीय कलाकारों की संख्या घट गई और नेपाल, अफ्रीका और रूस से कलाकारों की संख्या बढ़ गई।

Memories of Good Times

अच्छे समय की यादें

- Ramanathan recalls how **M.V. Sankaran** treated artistes like his own children, providing **food, clothes, and a weekly allowance**. रमणाथन याद करते हैं कि कैसे एम. वी. शंकरण कलाकारों को अपने बच्चों जैसा मानते थे, और उन्हें भोजन, कपड़े और साप्ताहिक भत्ता दिया करते थे।
- Sundays were special with **chocolates**. रविवार को चॉकलेट मिलती थी, जो खास होता था।

Early Entry into the Circus

सर्कस में प्रारंभिक प्रवेश

- 'Flying Trapeze' Narayanan joined the circus while in **Class 5**, as his family couldn't afford his education. 'फ्लाइंग ट्रेपेज़' नारायणन ने कक्षा 5 में पढ़ाई छोड़कर सर्कस ज्वाइन किया क्योंकि परिवार उनकी पढ़ाई का खर्च नहीं उठा सकता था।



- Vijayalakshmi, from Thalassery, joined **Great Oriental Circus** at the age of 4, taken there by her aunt. थलास्सेरी की विजयलक्ष्मी ने 4 साल की उम्र में ग्रेट ओरिएंटल सर्कस ज्वाइन किया, जहाँ उनकी मौसी उन्हें ले गई थीं।

Seeing the World Through the Circus

सर्कस के माध्यम से दुनिया देखना

- Vijayalakshmi visited countries like **Malaysia and Singapore**, performing across **major Indian cities**. विजयलक्ष्मी ने मलेशिया और सिंगापुर जैसे देशों की यात्रा की और भारत के प्रमुख शहरों में प्रदर्शन किया।
- She fondly recalls bringing home a **Panasonic radio** from Singapore, which drew excitement in her neighborhood. वह याद करती हैं कि सिंगापुर से लाई गई पैनासोनिक रेडियो ने उनके मोहल्ले में उत्साह भर दिया था।

Struggles of Women in Circus

सर्कस में महिलाओं का संघर्ष

- **Uma Devi**, daughter of trainer **Koran**, faced resistance but joined the circus and later married '**Springnet**' **Narayanan**. उमा देवी, प्रशिक्षक कोरन की बेटी, विरोध के बावजूद सर्कस में शामिल हुईं और बाद में 'स्प्रिंगनेट' नारायणन से शादी की।
- Narayanan suffered a **serious injury** during training in **Patna**, forcing their daughters **Reena and Preeja**, aged 4 and 6, to join the circus. नारायणन को पटना में प्रशिक्षण के दौरान गंभीर चोट लगी, जिससे उनकी बेटियाँ रीना और प्रीजा (उम्र 4 और 6 साल) को सर्कस में जाना पड़ा।
- Uma performed for **20 more years** to support the family, but regrets **not saving for old age**. उमा ने 20 और वर्षों तक सर्कस में प्रदर्शन कर परिवार को संभाला, लेकिन उन्हें अफसोस है कि बुजुर्गावस्था के लिए कुछ नहीं बचा सकीं।



Meagre Pension and Support

कम पेंशन और सहायता

- Some artistes, like Vijayalakshmi, were given **land parcels** by circus owners to build homes. कुछ कलाकारों को, जैसे विजयलक्ष्मी को, सर्कस मालिकों ने **जमीन के टुकड़े** दिए ताकि वे घर बना सकें।
- **1,113 retired circus artistes** in Kerala receive a monthly pension of **₹1,600**. केरल में 1,113 सेवानिवृत्त सर्कस कलाकारों को **₹1,600** मासिक पेंशन मिलती है।
- Artistes complain that this amount is insufficient due to **rising medical and living costs**. कलाकारों का कहना है कि **बढ़ती चिकित्सा और जीवन यापन की लागत** के कारण यह राशि अपर्याप्त है।

Animal Ban Accelerates Decline

पशु प्रतिबंध से गिरावट तेज

- Government banned use of **animals in circuses** in the **late 1990s**. सरकार ने **1990 के दशक के अंत** में सर्कसों में जानवरों के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।
- Many circuses tried replacing real animals with **robotic ones**, but the appeal was lost. कई सर्कसों ने असली जानवरों की जगह **रोबोटिक जानवरों** को लाने की कोशिश की, लेकिन दर्शकों को मज़ा नहीं आया।
- **K.P. Rajan**, trainer with **Jumbo Circus**, recalls how they once had **18 elephants, lions, bears, and monkeys**. **के. पी. राजन**, जो **जंबो सर्कस** में प्रशिक्षक हैं, याद करते हैं कि उनके पास कभी **18 हाथी, शेर, भालू, और बंदर** हुआ करते थे।

Industry on the Brink

उद्योग पतन की कगार पर



- Only major names like **Gemini, Jumbo, Apollo, and Great Bombay Circus** remain; smaller groups have vanished. केवल जेमिनी, जंबो, अपोलो और ग्रेट बॉम्बे सर्कस जैसे बड़े नाम बचे हैं; छोटे समूह गायब हो गए हैं।
- **E. Ravindran**, a trainer, says the industry is in its **sunset years**, with **no new artistes or trainers** entering. ई. रविंद्रन, एक प्रशिक्षक कहते हैं कि यह उद्योग अपने अंतिम वर्षों में है, क्योंकि कोई नया कलाकार या प्रशिक्षक नहीं आ रहा है।

Need for Reinvention

पुनराविष्कार की आवश्यकता

- **Divya S. Iyer**, Cultural Affairs Director, says the circus has remained **stagnant** and must **reinvent** to attract the younger generation. दिव्या एस. अय्यर, संस्कृति निदेशक कहती हैं कि सर्कस स्थिर हो गया है और नवाचार की ज़रूरत है ताकि युवा पीढ़ी को आकर्षित किया जा सके।

Too Late for Revival?

पुनरुद्धार के लिए बहुत देर?

- **P.R. Nisha**, author of *Jumbos and Jumping Devils*, feels that bans on **children and animals** have made revival very difficult. पी. आर. निशा, *जंबोस एंड जंपिंग डेविल्स* की लेखिका का मानना है कि बच्चों और जानवरों पर प्रतिबंध ने पुनरुद्धार को बहुत मुश्किल बना दिया है।
- Even veteran artistes, like **Nalini** from **Great Rayman Circus**, admit the **charm of circus is gone**. यहां तक कि ग्रेट रेयमन सर्कस की पूर्व कलाकार नलिनी भी मानती हैं कि सर्कस की आकर्षकता खत्म हो चुकी है।
- Once, circus arrivals in towns caused **great excitement**, but now both the **artistes and the art** are fading into history. एक समय था जब कस्बों में सर्कस के आने से बड़ी उत्सुकता होती थी, लेकिन अब कलाकार और कला दोनों इतिहास बनते जा रहे हैं।



WASHINGTON

U.S. judge limits Musk's DOGE access to social security data



PCS: DOGE

AP

A federal judge on Thursday has barred Elon Musk's **Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)** from accessing Americans' sensitive Social Security data, citing privacy violations. DOGE staff must delete any non-anonymised data, and may only receive redacted records after background checks and privacy training. AFP

U.S. Judge Limits Musk's DOGE Access to Social Security Data

अमेरिकी न्यायाधीश ने मस्क की DOGE एजेंसी की सामाजिक सुरक्षा डेटा तक पहुंच सीमित की

- A federal judge on Thursday barred Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) from accessing Americans' sensitive Social Security data, citing privacy violations. गुरुवार को एक संघीय न्यायाधीश ने एलन मस्क की डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ गवर्नमेंट एफिशिएंसी (DOGE) को अमेरिकी नागरिकों के संवेदनशील

सामाजिक सुरक्षा डेटा तक पहुंचने से गोपनीयता उल्लंघन के आधार पर रोक लगा दी।

- DOGE staff must **delete all non-anonymised data** currently in possession. DOGE स्टाफ को अपने पास मौजूद सभी गैर-अनामित डेटा हटाना होगा।
- They may only receive **redacted records** after completing **background checks** and **privacy training**.

उन्हें केवल पृष्ठभूमि जांच और गोपनीयता प्रशिक्षण के बाद ही संशोधित रिकॉर्ड प्राप्त करने की अनुमति होगी।