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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12 AUGUST 2025

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12_08_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. SC fixes dates to hear pleas challenging talaq-e-hasan
तलाक-ए-हसन को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं की सुनवाई के लिए
SC ने तारीख तय की
2. • Australia will recognise a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday.

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ऑस्ट्रेलिया सितंबर में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में फिलिस्तीनी राज्य को मान्यता देगा, प्रधानमंत्री एंथनी अल्बनीज़ ने सोमवार को कहा।

PCS

SC fixes dates to hear pleas challenging *talaq-e-hasan*

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear from November 19 a batch of petitions challenging the practice of *talaq-e-hasan* as unconstitutional. *Talaq-e-hasan* is a form of divorce among Muslims through which a man can dissolve a marriage by pronouncing the word *talaq* once every month over a three-month period. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued notice and sought the views of the National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

SC fixes dates to hear pleas challenging *talaq-e-hasan*

तलाक-ए-हसन को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं की सुनवाई के लिए SC ने तारीख तय की

• The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear from November 19 a batch of petitions challenging the practice of *talaq-e-hasan* as unconstitutional.

• सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को 19 नवंबर से तलाक-ए-हसन की प्रथा को असंवैधानिक बताते हुए चुनौती देने

वाली याचिकाओं के एक समूह की सुनवाई करने पर सहमति जताई।

- **Talaq-e-hasan** is a form of divorce among **Muslims** through which a man can dissolve a marriage by pronouncing the word **talaq** once every month over a **three-month** period.
 - तलाक-ए-हसन मुसलमानों में तलाक का एक तरीका है, जिसके माध्यम से एक पुरुष तीन महीने की अवधि में हर महीने एक बार तलाक शब्द उच्चारित करके विवाह समाप्त कर सकता है।
- A Bench of Justices **Surya Kant** and **Joymalya Bagchi** issued notice and sought the views of the **National Commission for Women**, **National Human Rights Commission** and **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**.
 - न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत और न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची की पीठ ने नोटिस जारी किया और राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग, राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग और राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के विचार मांगे।



Australia 'will recognise' Palestinian state at UNGA

PCS
Agence France-Presse
CANBERRA

Australia will recognise a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday.

"A two-state solution is humanity's best hope to break the cycle of violence in the Middle East [West Asia] and to bring an end to the conflict, suffering and starvation in Gaza," he told reporters in Canberra.

"Australia will recognise the right of the Palestinian people to a state of their own. We will work with the international community to make this right a reality."

He said that Australia's decision was predicated on reassurances from the Palestinian Authority that there would be "no role for the terrorists of Hamas in



Following suit: Anthony Albanese, right, and Foreign Minister Penny Wong at a press conference in Canberra on Monday. AP

any future Palestinian state".

'Shameful'

Israel's Ambassador to Australia, Amir Maimon, said the decision was symbolic, rather than "genuine progress towards peace".

"Let us be clear: this decision will not change the reality on the ground," Mr. Maimon said.

Just hours earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticised international calls to recognise Palestinian statehood, saying it would "not bring peace, it will bring war". "To have European countries and Australia march into that rabbit hole, just like that, fall right into it and buy this canard is disappointing," he said.

Australia will recognise a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday.

ऑस्ट्रेलिया सितंबर में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में फिलिस्तीनी राज्य को मान्यता देगा, प्रधानमंत्री एंथनी अल्बनीज़ ने सोमवार को कहा।

● "A two-state solution is humanity's best hope to break the

cycle of violence in the Middle East [West Asia] and to bring an end to the conflict, suffering and starvation in Gaza," he told reporters in Canberra.

उन्होंने कैनबरा में पत्रकारों से कहा, "दो-राज्य समाधान मध्य पूर्व [पश्चिम एशिया] में हिंसा के चक्र को तोड़ने और गाज़ा में संघर्ष, पीड़ा और भूखमरी को समाप्त करने के लिए मानवता की सबसे अच्छी आशा है।"

- "Australia will recognise the right of the **Palestinian people** to a state of their own. We will work with the international community to make this right a reality."

"ऑस्ट्रेलिया फिलिस्तीनी लोगों के अपने राज्य के अधिकार को मान्यता देगा। हम इस अधिकार को वास्तविकता बनाने के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय के साथ काम करेंगे।"

- He said that **Australia's** decision was based on reassurances from the **Palestinian Authority** that there would be "no role for the terrorists of **Hamas** in any future Palestinian state".

उन्होंने कहा कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया का निर्णय फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण से इस आश्वासन पर आधारित है कि किसी भी भविष्य के फिलिस्तीनी राज्य में **हमास** के आतंकवादियों की कोई भूमिका नहीं होगी।

- **Israel's Ambassador to Australia, Amir Maimon**, said the decision was symbolic, rather than "genuine progress towards peace".

इज़राइल के ऑस्ट्रेलिया में राजदूत अमीर मैमोन ने कहा कि यह निर्णय प्रतीकात्मक है, न कि "शांति की ओर वास्तविक प्रगति"।



- “Let us be clear: this decision will not change the reality on the ground,” **Mr. Maimon** said.
“स्पष्ट हो जाएं: यह निर्णय जमीनी हकीकत को नहीं बदलेगा,” **श्री मैमोन** ने कहा।
- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** criticised international calls to recognise Palestinian statehood, saying it would “not bring peace, it will bring war”.
इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू ने फिलिस्तीनी राज्य की मान्यता की अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपीलों की आलोचना की, यह कहते हुए कि इससे “शांति नहीं आएगी, युद्ध आएगा”।
- “To have **European countries** and **Australia** march into that rabbit hole, just like that, fall right into it and buy this canard is disappointing,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “**यूरोपीय देशों** और **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** का इस जाल में फंसना, सीधे उसमें गिर जाना और इस झूठ को मान लेना निराशाजनक है।”

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

1. **Why can't Army deploy women to fight terror, asks SC**
क्यों नहीं सेना महिलाओं को आतंकवाद से लड़ने के लिए तैनात कर सकती, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पूछा
2. **A Court ruling with no room for gender justice**
लैंगिक न्याय के लिए कोई स्थान न रखने वाला एक न्यायालय का निर्णय
3. **Bringing them home**
उन्हें घर वापस लाना
4. **Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz**
पिछले दिन की डेली क्विज़ के प्रश्न और उत्तर
5. **Colombia presidential candidate dies after shooting at a June rally**
कोलंबिया के राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार की जून रैली में गोलीबारी के बाद मौत



Why can't Army deploy women to fight terror, asks SC

GS I: Society

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked why the Army cannot deploy women officers to counter terror and insurgency in an emergency if other Services such as the Air Force sent women behind enemy lines by fighter jets, helicopters and parachutes.

The question came in a judgment pronounced by a Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan, which struck down a policy of the Army restricting the appointment of women officers to the Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch. The women candidates were represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

The Bench said a policy bifurcating candidates on the basis of gender and reserving more posts for men did not meet the standards of law.

The judgment authored by Justice Manmohan clarified that the court was not imposing its views on the Army, but implementing the Constitution and the mandate of law. "No nation can be secure when half of its population its women force] is held back," Justice Manmohan observed.

It directed the Union government to publish a common merit list for all JAG candidates, men and women, and make the marks public.

The top court dismissed the Union government's argument that the JAG branch consisted of "exclusively combatant personnel" as they were a reserve for mobilisation.

The court said this contention ran contrary to the right of women to form part of all combat support arms services. It further violated the right of women to be treated as equals in all aspects of their em-



Women soldiers of the Indian Army patrol an area in Kupwara district, J&K. PTI

ployment in the Army. Besides, the court noted that with a strength of over 1.4 million active personnel compared with just 285 JAG officers, it would be an extreme stretch to claim that women ought to be excluded.

The court said the Centre's argument that women officers were not deployed for counterinsurgency or in counter-terror forces as they were "not expected to discharge the role of combatants in case of armed conflicts" had no legislative sanction or basis.

Justice Manmohan said there was no restriction in other armed forces on the appointment of women in combat posts.

The Air Force has continually opened new combat roles for women as fighter pilots and helicopter pilots.

"When women officers like Captain Ojaswita Shree of the elite Parachute Air Defence Unit, Major Dwipannita Kalita of highly specialised airborne medical unit of the Army and Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh (pilot of Rafale jet) of the Air Force can operate behind enemy lines with all expected risks, why women officers in times of emergency cannot be deployed for counter-insurgency or in counter-terror forces or attached to infantry/artillery units," the top court questioned.

Why can't Army deploy women to fight terror, asks SC

क्यों नहीं सेना महिलाओं को आतंकवाद से लड़ने के लिए तैनात कर सकती, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पूछा

- The Supreme Court on Monday asked why the Army cannot deploy women officers to counter terror and insurgency in an emergency if other Services such as the Air Force sent women behind enemy lines by fighter jets, helicopters and parachutes.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को पूछा कि जब अन्य सेवाएं जैसे वायुसेना महिला अधिकारियों को लड़ाकू विमानों, हेलीकॉप्टरों और पैराशूट के जरिए दुश्मन की सीमाओं के पीछे भेज सकती हैं, तो सेना आपातकाल में महिलाओं को आतंकवाद और विद्रोह से निपटने के लिए क्यों नहीं तैनात कर सकती।

- The question came in a judgment pronounced by a Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan, which struck down a policy of the Army restricting the appointment of women officers to the Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch. The women candidates were represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

यह सवाल न्यायमूर्ति दीपांकर दत्ता और मनमोहन की पीठ द्वारा दिए गए एक फैसले में आया, जिसमें सेना की उस नीति को रद्द कर दिया गया

जिसने महिला अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति को केवल जज एडवोकेट जनरल (JAG) शाखा तक सीमित कर दिया था। महिला उम्मीदवारों का प्रतिनिधित्व वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता गोपाल शंकरनारायणन ने किया।

- The Bench said a policy bifurcating candidates on the basis of gender and reserving more posts for men did not meet the standards of law.

पीठ ने कहा कि लिंग के आधार पर उम्मीदवारों को विभाजित करने और पुरुषों के लिए अधिक पद आरक्षित करने की नीति कानून के मानकों पर खरी नहीं उतरती।

- The judgment authored by Justice Manmohan clarified that the court was not imposing its views on the Army, but implementing the Constitution and the mandate of law. "No nation can be secure when half of its population (its women force) is held back," Justice Manmohan observed.

न्यायमूर्ति मनमोहन द्वारा लिखित निर्णय में स्पष्ट किया गया कि

अदालत अपनी राय सेना पर थोप नहीं रही है, बल्कि संविधान और कानून के आदेश को लागू कर रही है। न्यायमूर्ति मनमोहन ने कहा, "कोई भी राष्ट्र तब सुरक्षित नहीं हो सकता जब उसकी आधी आबादी यानी महिला शक्ति को रोका जाए।"



- It directed the **Union government** to publish a **common merit list** for all JAG candidates, men and women, and make the marks public.
इसने केंद्र सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि सभी JAG उम्मीदवारों, पुरुष और महिला, के लिए एक **सामान्य मेरिट सूची** प्रकाशित करें और अंक सार्वजनिक करें।
- The top court dismissed the Union government's argument that the JAG branch consisted of "exclusively combatant personnel" as they were a reserve for mobilisation.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने केंद्र सरकार के इस तर्क को खारिज कर दिया कि JAG शाखा में "विशेष रूप से युद्धक कर्मी" होते हैं क्योंकि वे लामबंदी के लिए आरक्षित होते हैं।
- The court said this contention ran contrary to the **right of women** to form part of all **combat support arms services**. It further violated the **right of women to be treated as equals** in all aspects of their employment in the Army.
अदालत ने कहा कि यह तर्क महिलाओं के सभी **कॉम्बैट सपोर्ट आर्म्स सेवाओं** का हिस्सा बनने के **अधिकार** के विपरीत है। यह सेना में महिलाओं को उनके रोजगार के सभी पहलुओं में समान व्यवहार करने के **अधिकार** का भी उल्लंघन करता है।
- Besides, the court noted that with a strength of over **1.4 million active personnel compared with just 285 JAG officers**, it would be an extreme stretch to claim that **women ought to be excluded**.
इसके अलावा, अदालत ने नोट किया कि **14 लाख** से अधिक सक्रिय कर्मियों की तुलना में केवल **285 JAG अधिकारियों** के साथ, यह दावा करना कि महिलाओं को बाहर रखा जाना चाहिए, अत्यधिक अतिरंजित है।
- The court said the Centre's argument that women officers were not deployed for counterinsurgency or in counter-terror forces as they were "not expected to discharge the role of combatants in case of armed conflicts" had no **legislative sanction** or basis.
अदालत ने कहा कि केंद्र का यह तर्क कि महिला अधिकारियों को आतंकवाद-रोधी या विद्रोह-रोधी बलों में तैनात नहीं किया जाता क्योंकि उनसे "सशस्त्र संघर्ष के मामले में युद्धक की भूमिका निभाने की अपेक्षा नहीं की जाती" — इसका कोई **वैधानिक आधार** नहीं है।
- **Justice Manmohan** said there was no restriction in other armed forces on the appointment of women in **combat posts**.
न्यायमूर्ति मनमोहन ने कहा कि अन्य सशस्त्र बलों में महिलाओं की **कॉम्बैट पदों** पर नियुक्ति पर कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं है।
- The **Air Force** has continually opened new combat roles for women as fighter pilots and helicopter pilots.
वायुसेना ने महिलाओं के लिए लड़ाकू पायलट और हेलीकॉप्टर पायलट के रूप में लगातार नए कॉम्बैट रोल खोले हैं।
- "When women officers like **Captain Ojaswita Shree** of the elite **Parachute Air Defence Unit**, **Major Dwipannita Kalita** of highly specialised airborne medical unit of the Army and **Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh** (pilot of Rafale jet) of the Air Force can operate behind enemy lines with all expected risks, why women officers in times of emergency cannot be deployed for counter-insurgency or in counter-terror forces or attached to infantry/artillery units," the top court questioned.
"जब **पैराशूट एयर डिफेंस यूनिट** की **कैप्टन ओजस्विता श्री**, सेना की अत्यधिक विशिष्ट एयरबोर्न मेडिकल यूनिट की **मेजर द्विपन्निता कलिता** और वायुसेना की राफेल पायलट **फ्लाइट लेफ्टिनेंट शिवांगी सिंह** जैसी महिला अधिकारी सभी अपेक्षित खतरों के साथ दुश्मन की सीमाओं के पीछे काम



कर सकती हैं, तो आपातकाल के समय महिलाओं को आतंकवाद-रोधी या विद्रोह-रोधी बलों में या पैदल सेना/तोपखाने इकाइयों में क्यों नहीं तैनात किया जा सकता," सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने सवाल किया।

A Court ruling with no room for gender justice

GS I: Social Justice

In its judgment, *Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal*, that was delivered in late July, the Supreme Court of India has effectively endorsed the suspension of the arrest or coercive action under the anti-cruelty law in Section 498-A of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (IPC). Apart from being predicated on false premises, the judgment sets a dangerous precedent for both criminal justice and gender equality.

In many marriages, women suffer great levels of inequality. Apart from being discriminated against and stereotyped, they also face harassment and violence including torture. To redress violence in the domestic sphere, the Parliament has brought in laws such as Section 498-A in the IPC in 1983. Section 498-A IPC (Section 85 of the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) penalises cruelty against women, by her husband or his relative with imprisonment for three years and a fine. Cruelty is defined wide enough to include dowry harassment and driving the woman to suicide or injury to life or health.

The statement of objects of the Amending Act which brought in the law has underlined the need to expand the scope of the law to apply to all kinds of cruelty within marriage. This was done in the wake of a large number of dowry deaths and also noting that cruelty cases "culminate in suicide by, or murder of, the helpless woman concerned, constitute only a small fraction of the cases involving such cruelty". Penal legislation such as the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 were enacted to operate harmoniously with other laws enacted for violence against women. Therefore, Parliament, as the policymaker, after legislative deliberation and study, has chosen to enact the anti-cruelty law in this particular socio-cultural context.

Blanket protection from arrest

However, it is without properly appreciating these social realities that the Allahabad High Court directed that no arrest or coercive action must be taken against the accused persons for a 'cool-off' period of two months from the complaint. It also directed the district-level constitution of family welfare committees, to which cases are directed to be transferred to. These directions are now endorsed by the Supreme Court, amounting to a temporary but blanket protection for the accused from arrest or coercive action, when it is permitted by the criminal law.

Importantly enough, this was done in an individual dispute without examining in detail the socio-political implications of such a suspension. Nor was the State government heard in elaborate detail – at least going by the top court's judgment



Thulasi K. Raj

is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India

With the top court's selective suspension of the anti-cruelty law, victims of cruelty have been made more vulnerable under the justice system

– before approving the suspension concerning a central criminal enactment. As a result of the judgment and its binding nature, even when there is overwhelming evidence of this serious crime, no arrests can be made by the police for at least a period of two months after its filing. This move also places a chilling effect on the complainants, who are otherwise already disadvantaged and discouraged from filing police complaints. The safety of the complainant is also severely put to risk. Further, the delay and inaction of the police in a proper investigation of complaints pertaining to 'problems inside marriage' are also legitimised by the judgment.

Now, it might be true that family law jurisprudence in the country could improve with alternate dispute resolution mechanisms such as mediation, rather than adversarial litigation. There is substance in the general argument that in cases of divorce or custody of children, conciliatory and effective resolution is more desirable than a long adjudicative process. Family cases are also highly sensitive and emotionally charged, which makes them much more suitable for the former than the latter. These aspects do not, however, apply when serious allegations of violence are made which come under the ambit of the penal law.

The question of 'misuse'

The narrative of 'misuse' of the anti-cruelty law is often heard in popular discourse. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court itself has echoed a similar sentiment in a series of cases. In *Preeti Gupta and Anr. vs State Of Jharkhand and Anr.* (2010), the Court held that several cases which are not bona fide are filed under this provision. In *Sushil Kumar Sharma vs Union Of India and Ors.* (2005), the Court even said that "by misuse of the provision a new legal terrorism can be unleashed". In *Arnesh Kumar vs State Of Bihar and Anr.* (2014), the Court already issued strict guidelines before arrest in anti-cruelty cases. It directed "the State Governments to instruct its police officers not to automatically arrest when a case under Section 498-A of the IPC is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under the parameters" under Section 41 of the earlier Criminal Procedure Code which deals with appearance before police officers. Such guidelines have already rendered police action difficult.

Yet, before the Court, apart from individual allegations, there is no concrete empirical data with evidence of any such 'misuse' of the anti-cruelty law. Every time the Court is faced with a dispute, it pertains to individual facts and counter versions. Being a complex social problem, this is also an area where the Court has

much less institutional competence to conclude that there is overall 'misuse'. To venture into the terrain of legislative wisdom, therefore, is outside the corners of judicial expertise.

One of the arguments often used is the allegedly low conviction rate in such cases, which is around 18% as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data in 2022. This means that almost one out of five cases leads to conviction, which is much higher than those in several other offences. Even otherwise, a low conviction rate does not automatically translate into the misuse of the law. In a society such as ours, with close-knit and dominating family relationships, it is attributable to various factors such as the problems in investigation, systemic bias and social and familial pressure on the woman to settle matters. The requirement of family members having to testify in criminal court is a daunting task. Moreover, there is a high burden of proof of 'beyond reasonable doubt' in criminal cases in addition to the difficulty in finding evidence for violence in intimate spaces.

Survey findings

The NCRB recorded that at least 1,34,506 cases were registered under the law in 2022. The National Family Health Survey-5 has reported the ground reality – that there is a gross under-reporting of violence against women in several States. The rising number of cases, a report by the women's centre HumSafar said, "may be attributed to growing awareness among women about the law". Therefore, to draw conclusions of widespread misuse from individual cases "reflect institutional bias that exists within the criminal justice system" (A comprehensive study on the efficacy of Section 498-A).

Now, even if we assume that there are false cases filed under the law, the potential for misuse is inherent in any law. The veracity of the allegation under any criminal complaint can only be determined upon a proper investigation. Now, by selectively suspending the anti-cruelty law, the Court has made the victims of cruelty much more vulnerable than ever under India's justice system. To subject certain criminal provisions to a more rigorous test than the others also has effects on the uniformity and the consistency of the criminal law.

The Court itself reiterated in *Sushil Kumar Sharma* (2005), wherein the constitutional validity of this very law was under challenge, the settled legal principle that misuse of a law is no ground to strike it down. Now, it has acted exactly against this idea, making rigid the possibilities of victims of cruelty to aspire for any meaningful semblance of justice.

A Court ruling with no room for gender justice

लैंगिक न्याय के लिए कोई स्थान न रखने वाला एक न्यायालय का निर्णय

Supreme Court Ruling in *Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal*

शिवांगी बंसल बनाम साहिब बंसल में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का फैसला

- In its judgment, *Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal*, that was delivered in late July, the Supreme Court of India has effectively endorsed the suspension of the arrest or coercive action under the anti-cruelty law in Section 498-A of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (IPC).



जुलाई के अंत में दिए गए शिवांगी बंसल बनाम साहिब बंसल के फैसले में, भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने पूर्व भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC) की धारा 498-ए के तहत गिरफ्तारी या जबरदस्ती की कार्रवाई को प्रभावी रूप से निलंबित करने का समर्थन किया है।

- Apart from being predicated on false premises, the judgment sets a dangerous precedent for both **criminal justice** and **gender equality**.
झूठे आधारों पर आधारित होने के अलावा, यह फैसला **आपराधिक न्याय** और **लैंगिक समानता** दोनों के लिए एक खतरनाक मिसाल कायम करता है।
- In many marriages, women suffer great levels of **inequality**. Apart from being **discriminated against** and **stereotyped**, they also face harassment and violence including **torture**.
कई विवाहों में, महिलाएं गंभीर **असमानता** झेलती हैं। **भेदभाव** और **रूढ़िवादी धारणाओं** के अलावा, वे **उत्पीड़न** और **हिंसा** (जिसमें **यातना** भी शामिल है) का सामना करती हैं।
- To redress violence in the **domestic sphere**, the **Parliament** has brought in laws such as **Section 498-A** in the IPC in 1983.
घरेलू क्षेत्र में हिंसा को दूर करने के लिए, **संसद** ने 1983 में IPC में धारा 498-ए जैसे कानून लागू किए।
- **Section 498-A IPC (Section 85 of the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita)** penalises **cruelty against women**, by her husband or his relative with imprisonment for **three years** and a fine.
IPC की धारा 498-ए (नई भारतीय न्याय संहिता की धारा 85) महिला के पति या उसके रिश्तेदार द्वारा की गई **क्रूरता** को **तीन साल** की कैद और जुर्माने से दंडित करती है।
- Cruelty is defined wide enough to include **dowry harassment** and driving the woman to **suicide** or injury to **life or health**.
क्रूरता की परिभाषा में **दहेज उत्पीड़न**, महिला को **आत्महत्या** के लिए मजबूर करना, या **जीवन या स्वास्थ्य** को नुकसान पहुंचाना शामिल है।
- The statement of objects of the **Amending Act** which brought in the law has underlined the need to expand the scope of the law to apply to **all kinds of cruelty within marriage**.
इस कानून को लागू करने वाले **संशोधन अधिनियम** के उद्देश्यों के वक्तव्य ने यह रेखांकित किया है कि विवाह के भीतर **हर प्रकार की क्रूरता** पर कानून का दायरा बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है।
- This was done in the wake of a large number of **dowry deaths** and also noting that cruelty cases “culminate in suicide by, or murder of, the helpless woman concerned, constitute only a small fraction of the cases involving such cruelty”.
यह कदम बड़ी संख्या में **दहेज हत्याओं** और इस तथ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए उठाया गया कि क्रूरता के मामले अक्सर “**आत्महत्या** या पीड़ित महिला की **हत्या**” में समाप्त होते हैं, जो ऐसे मामलों का केवल एक छोटा हिस्सा है।
- Penal legislation such as the **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961** were enacted to operate harmoniously with other laws enacted for **violence against women**.
दहेज निषेध अधिनियम, 1961 जैसे दंडात्मक कानूनों को **महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा** से संबंधित अन्य कानूनों के साथ सामंजस्यपूर्ण रूप से लागू करने के लिए बनाया गया।
- Therefore, **Parliament**, as the policymaker, after **legislative deliberation** and **study**, has chosen to enact the anti-cruelty law in this particular **socio-cultural context**.
इसलिए, **संसद** ने नीति निर्माता के रूप में, **विधायी विचार-विमर्श** और **अध्ययन** के बाद, इस विशेष **सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक संदर्भ** में इस **विरोधी-क्रूरता कानून** को लागू करने का निर्णय लिया।



Blanket protection from arrest

गिरफ्तारी से संपूर्ण संरक्षण

- However, it is without properly appreciating these **social realities** that the **Allahabad High Court** directed that no arrest or coercive action must be taken against the accused persons for a **'cool-off' period of two months** from the complaint.
हालांकि, इन सामाजिक वास्तविकताओं को ठीक से समझे बिना, इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने निर्देश दिया कि शिकायत से दो महीने के 'कूल-ऑफ' अवधि तक आरोपी के खिलाफ कोई गिरफ्तारी या जबरदस्ती की कार्रवाई नहीं की जाएगी।
- It also directed the district-level constitution of **family welfare committees**, to which cases are directed to be transferred to.
इसने जिला स्तर पर परिवार कल्याण समितियों के गठन का भी निर्देश दिया, जिनके पास मामलों को स्थानांतरित किया जाएगा।
- These directions are now endorsed by the **Supreme Court**, amounting to a temporary but **blanket protection** for the accused from arrest or coercive action, when it is permitted by the **criminal law**.
अब इन निर्देशों को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने मंजूरी दे दी है, जो आपराधिक कानून द्वारा अनुमति होने पर भी आरोपी को गिरफ्तारी या जबरदस्ती की कार्रवाई से अस्थायी लेकिन संपूर्ण संरक्षण प्रदान करता है।
- Importantly enough, this was done in an **individual dispute** without examining in detail the **socio-political implications** of such a suspension.
महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह एक व्यक्तिगत विवाद में किया गया, बिना ऐसे निलंबन के सामाजिक-राजनीतिक प्रभावों की विस्तार से जांच किए।
- Nor was the **State government** heard in elaborate detail — at least going by the top court's judgment — before approving the suspension concerning a **central criminal enactment**.
न ही राज्य सरकार को — कम से कम सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के फैसले के अनुसार — केंद्रीय आपराधिक अधिनियम से संबंधित इस निलंबन को मंजूरी देने से पहले विस्तार से सुना गया।
- As a result of the judgment and its **binding nature**, even when there is **overwhelming evidence** of this serious crime, no arrests can be made by the police for at least a period of **two months** after its filing.
फैसले और इसकी बाध्यकारी प्रकृति के परिणामस्वरूप, इस गंभीर अपराध के ठोस सबूत होने पर भी, इसकी फाइलिंग के बाद कम से कम दो महीने तक पुलिस कोई गिरफ्तारी नहीं कर सकती।
- This move also places a **chilling effect** on the complainants, who are otherwise already **disadvantaged** and **discouraged** from filing police complaints.
यह कदम शिकायतकर्ताओं पर भी नकारात्मक प्रभाव डालता है, जो पहले से ही वंचित और पुलिस शिकायत दर्ज करने से हतोत्साहित होते हैं।
- The safety of the complainant is also severely put to **risk**.
शिकायतकर्ता की सुरक्षा भी गंभीर जोखिम में पड़ जाती है।
- Further, the delay and **inaction** of the police in a proper investigation of complaints pertaining to 'problems inside marriage' are also **legitimised** by the judgment.
इसके अलावा, 'विवाह के भीतर समस्याओं' से संबंधित शिकायतों की उचित जांच में पुलिस की देरी और निष्क्रियता को भी इस फैसले द्वारा वैध बना दिया गया है।



Alternate dispute resolution in family law

पारिवारिक कानून में वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान

- Now, it might be true that **family law jurisprudence** in the country could improve with **alternate dispute resolution mechanisms** such as mediation, rather than **adversarial litigation**.
अब यह सच हो सकता है कि देश में पारिवारिक कानून न्यायशास्त्र मध्यस्थता जैसे वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान तंत्रों से सुधर सकता है, न कि विरोधी मुकदमेबाजी से।
- There is substance in the general argument that in cases of **divorce** or **custody of children**, conciliatory and effective resolution is more desirable than a **long adjudicative process**.
यह सामान्य तर्क में दम है कि तलाक या बच्चों की अभिरक्षा के मामलों में, समझौतापूर्ण और प्रभावी समाधान, लंबी न्यायिक प्रक्रिया की तुलना में अधिक वांछनीय है।
- Family cases are also highly **sensitive** and **emotionally charged**, which makes them much more suitable for the former than the latter.
पारिवारिक मामले अत्यंत संवेदनशील और भावनात्मक रूप से तनावपूर्ण होते हैं, जिससे वे पहले वाले (मध्यस्थता) के लिए अधिक उपयुक्त बनते हैं।
- These aspects do not, however, apply when serious allegations of **violence** are made which come under the ambit of the **penal law**.
हालांकि, ये पहलू उस समय लागू नहीं होते जब हिंसा के गंभीर आरोप लगाए जाते हैं जो दंड कानून के दायरे में आते हैं।

The question of 'misuse'

'दुरुपयोग' का प्रश्न

- The narrative of '**misuse**' of the anti-cruelty law is often heard in popular discourse. Unfortunately, the **Supreme Court** itself has echoed a similar sentiment in a series of cases.
'दुरुपयोग' की कथा अक्सर अत्याचार-विरोधी कानून के संदर्भ में लोकप्रिय विमर्श में सुनी जाती है। दुर्भाग्यवश, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी कई मामलों में इसी तरह की भावना व्यक्त की है।
- In **Preeti Gupta and Anr. vs State Of Jharkhand and Anr. (2010)**, the Court held that several cases which are not **bona fide** are filed under this provision.
प्रीति गुप्ता बनाम स्टेट ऑफ झारखंड (2010) में, अदालत ने माना कि कई मामले जो बona fide नहीं होते, इस प्रावधान के तहत दर्ज किए जाते हैं।
- In **Sushil Kumar Sharma vs Union Of India and Ors. (2005)**, the Court even said that "**by misuse of the provision a new legal terrorism can be unleashed**".
सुशील कुमार शर्मा बनाम यूनियन ऑफ इंडिया (2005) में, अदालत ने यहां तक कहा कि "इस प्रावधान के दुरुपयोग से एक नया कानूनी आतंकवाद फैल सकता है।"
- In **Arnesh Kumar vs State Of Bihar and Anr. (2014)**, the Court already issued strict guidelines before arrest in anti-cruelty cases.
अर्नेश कुमार बनाम स्टेट ऑफ बिहार (2014) में, अदालत ने अत्याचार-विरोधी मामलों में गिरफ्तारी से पहले ही कड़े दिशानिर्देश जारी किए थे।
- It directed "**the State Governments to instruct its police officers not to automatically arrest when a case under Section 498-A of the IPC is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under the parameters**" under **Section 41** of the earlier Criminal Procedure Code which deals with appearance before police officers.



अदालत ने निर्देश दिया कि “राज्य सरकारें अपने पुलिस अधिकारियों को यह आदेश दें कि आईपीसी की धारा 498-ए के तहत मामला दर्ज होने पर स्वतः गिरफ्तारी न करें, बल्कि पुराने दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता की धारा 41 के तहत गिरफ्तारी की आवश्यकता के मापदंडों के अनुसार संतुष्टि प्राप्त करें,” जो पुलिस अधिकारियों के समक्ष उपस्थिति से संबंधित है।

- Such guidelines have already rendered **police action** difficult.
ऐसे दिशानिर्देशों ने पहले से ही **पुलिस कार्रवाई** को कठिन बना दिया है।
- Yet, before the Court, apart from individual allegations, there is no **concrete empirical data** with evidence of any such ‘misuse’ of the anti-cruelty law.
फिर भी, अदालत के समक्ष, व्यक्तिगत आरोपों के अलावा, अत्याचार-विरोधी कानून के ऐसे किसी ‘दुरुपयोग’ के प्रमाण के साथ कोई **ठोस अनुभवजन्य डेटा** नहीं है।
- Every time the Court is faced with a dispute, it pertains to **individual facts** and **counter versions**.
हर बार जब अदालत के सामने कोई विवाद आता है, तो वह **व्यक्तिगत तथ्यों** और **विपरीत संस्करणों** से संबंधित होता है।
- Being a **complex social problem**, this is also an area where the Court has much less **institutional competence** to conclude that there is overall ‘misuse’.
एक **जटिल सामाजिक समस्या** होने के नाते, यह भी ऐसा क्षेत्र है जहां कुल मिलाकर ‘दुरुपयोग’ होने का निष्कर्ष निकालने के लिए अदालत के पास **संस्थागत क्षमता** बहुत कम है।
- To venture into the terrain of **legislative wisdom**, therefore, is outside the corners of **judicial expertise**.
इसलिए, **विधायी बुद्धिमत्ता** के क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करना **न्यायिक विशेषज्ञता** के दायरे से बाहर है।
- One of the arguments often used is the allegedly **low conviction rate in such cases, which is around 18% as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data in 2022**.
अक्सर दिया जाने वाला एक तर्क यह है कि ऐसे मामलों में कथित **दोषसिद्धि दर कम** है, जो **राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (NCRB) के 2022 के आंकड़ों** के अनुसार लगभग **18%** है।
- This means that almost **one out of five cases** leads to conviction, which is much higher than those in several other offences.
इसका अर्थ है कि लगभग **हर पाँच में से एक मामला** दोषसिद्धि में बदलता है, जो कई अन्य अपराधों की तुलना में कहीं अधिक है।
- Even otherwise, a **low conviction rate** does not automatically translate into the misuse of the law.
वैसे भी, **कम दोषसिद्धि दर** अपने आप कानून के दुरुपयोग में नहीं बदल जाती।
- In a society such as ours, with **close-knit and dominating family relationships**, it is attributable to various factors such as the problems in investigation, **systemic bias** and **social and familial pressure** on the woman to settle matters.
हमारे जैसे समाज में, जहां **घनिष्ठ और प्रभुत्वशाली पारिवारिक संबंध** होते हैं, यह कई कारणों से होता है जैसे कि जांच में समस्याएं, **प्रणालीगत पक्षपात** और महिला पर मामले को सुलझाने के लिए **सामाजिक और पारिवारिक दबाव**।
- The requirement of **family members having to testify in criminal court** is a daunting task.
पारिवारिक सदस्यों का आपराधिक अदालत में गवाही देना एक कठिन कार्य है।
- Moreover, there is a **high burden of proof** of ‘beyond reasonable doubt’ in criminal cases in addition to the difficulty in finding evidence for violence in intimate spaces.



इसके अलावा, आपराधिक मामलों में 'संदेह से परे प्रमाण' का उच्च बोझ होता है, साथ ही निजी स्थानों में हिंसा के सबूत ढूँढने में कठिनाई भी होती है।

Survey findings

सर्वेक्षण के निष्कर्ष

- The **NCRB** recorded that at least **1,34,506 cases** were registered under the law in **2022**.
NCRB ने दर्ज किया कि **2022** में इस कानून के तहत कम से कम **1,34,506 मामले** दर्ज किए गए।
- The **National Family Health Survey-5** has reported the ground reality — that there is a **gross under-reporting of violence against women in several States**.
राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण-5 ने वास्तविक स्थिति बताई है — कि कई राज्यों में महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा की **काफी कम रिपोर्टिंग** होती है।
- The rising number of cases, a report by the women's centre **Humsafar** said, "may be attributed to **growing awareness** among women about the law".
महिलाओं के केंद्र **हमसफर** की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, मामलों की बढ़ती संख्या का कारण महिलाओं में कानून के बारे में **बढ़ती जागरूकता** हो सकता है।
- Therefore, to draw conclusions of **widespread misuse** from individual cases "reflect **institutional bias** that exists within the criminal justice system" (**A comprehensive study on the efficacy of Section 498-A**).
इसलिए, व्यक्तिगत मामलों से **व्यापक दुरुपयोग** का निष्कर्ष निकालना, "आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली के भीतर मौजूद **संस्थागत पक्षपात** को दर्शाता है" (**धारा 498-ए की प्रभावशीलता पर एक व्यापक अध्ययन**)।
- Now, even if we assume that there are **false cases** filed under the law, the potential for misuse is **inherent in any law**.
अब, यदि हम मान भी लें कि इस कानून के तहत **झूठे मामले** दर्ज किए जाते हैं, तो दुरुपयोग की संभावना **किसी भी कानून में अंतर्निहित** होती है।
- The **veracity** of the allegation under any criminal complaint can only be determined upon a **proper investigation**.
किसी भी आपराधिक शिकायत में आरोप की **सत्यता** केवल **उचित जांच** के बाद ही तय की जा सकती है।
- Now, by selectively suspending the anti-cruelty law, the Court has made the **victims of cruelty** much more vulnerable than ever under **India's justice system**.
अब, अत्याचार-विरोधी कानून को चुनिंदा तौर पर निलंबित करके, अदालत ने **भारत की न्याय प्रणाली** के तहत **अत्याचार के पीड़ितों** को पहले से कहीं अधिक असुरक्षित बना दिया है।
- To subject certain criminal provisions to a **more rigorous test** than the others also has effects on the **uniformity** and the **consistency** of the criminal law.
कुछ आपराधिक प्रावधानों को दूसरों की तुलना में **अधिक कठोर परीक्षण** के अधीन करना आपराधिक कानून की **एकरूपता** और **संगति** पर भी प्रभाव डालता है।
- The Court itself reiterated in **Sushil Kumar Sharma (2005)**, wherein the **constitutional validity** of this very law was under challenge, the settled legal principle that **misuse of a law is no ground to strike it down**.
अदालत ने स्वयं **सुशील कुमार शर्मा (2005)** में, जिसमें इस कानून की **संवैधानिक वैधता** को चुनौती दी गई थी, इस स्थापित कानूनी सिद्धांत को दोहराया कि **किसी कानून का दुरुपयोग इसे रद्द करने का आधार नहीं है**।



- Now, it has acted exactly against this idea, making rigid the possibilities of **victims of cruelty** to aspire for any meaningful semblance of **justice**.

अब, इसने ठीक इस विचार के विपरीत कार्य किया है, जिससे अत्याचार के पीड़ितों के लिए न्याय की किसी सार्थक झलक की संभावनाएं और भी कठोर हो गई हैं।

GS I: A&C

Bringing them home

India must have norms to keep sacred relics from being sold

The recent repatriation of the **Piprahwa relics, which were excavated in 1898 from a stupa in Uttar Pradesh**, marked an important episode in India's cultural diplomacy efforts. Considered to be physical remnants associated with Lord Buddha's mortal remains and his early followers, they were taken away in the colonial era and resurfaced for auction by Sotheby's in Hong Kong in May. At this point, the Indian government intervened to halt the auction and repatriate the relics. These artifacts now reside in the National Museum, providing people the opportunity to engage directly with an irreplaceable piece of India's and Buddhism's heritage. Notably, India's coordinated diplomatic effort, involving multiple ministries and its missions abroad, could persuade Sotheby's to postpone and eventually cancel the auction. The Godrej Industries Group's ability to acquire the relics through a negotiated arrangement with Sotheby's also reflects an innovative public-private partnership. Thus, the collaboration enabled the repatriation as well as the setting of a good precedent for future recoveries, combining private sector resources with state authority. The episode also raised awareness worldwide about India's role as a steward of Buddhist heritage.

However, the case has also revealed certain structural deficiencies in the framework within which India operates to recover and safeguard its cultural assets. The relics, excavated during British administration, originally had a fragmented ownership, resulting in a complex legal status that vexed repatriation claims a century later. India's reactive posture in the episode also reflected gaps in the existing legal, administrative, and preventive infrastructure to manage heritage. That the auction was publicly announced and scheduled before India intervened is revealing. The case also exposed the absence of robust international legal frameworks designed to prevent the sale of culturally sensitive objects. While India used existing national laws and international negotiations effectively in this instance, it also banked on diplomatic pressure, which is not a scalable solution. To address these gaps, the country needs a centralised, digitised registry of cultural assets (domestic and overseas) integrated with international customs and auction houses for real-time monitoring, proactive tracking, and to receive early alerts of potential sales. The government could also spearhead or actively participate in international efforts to develop binding norms to keep sacred relics from being commercialised. Scaling up public-private partnerships is equally imperative, together with encouraging the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including philanthropic foundations and heritage trusts, to mobilise additional resources and expertise for recovery and conservation.

Bringing them home

उन्हें घर वापस लाना

India must have norms to keep sacred relics from being sold.

भारत को पवित्र अवशेषों को बिकने से रोकने के लिए नियम बनाने चाहिए।

Repatriation of the Piprahwa Relics

पिपरहवा अवशेषों की वापसी

- The recent repatriation of the **Piprahwa relics, excavated in 1898 from a stupa in Uttar Pradesh, marked an important episode in India's cultural diplomacy efforts.**

पिपरहवा अवशेषों की हालिया वापसी, जिन्हें 1898 में उत्तर प्रदेश के एक स्तूप से निकाला गया था, भारत के सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति प्रयासों का एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रकरण था।

- Considered to be **remnants associated with Lord Buddha's mortal remains** and early followers, they were taken away in the **colonial era** and resurfaced for auction by **Sotheby's** in Hong Kong in May.



इन्हें भगवान बुद्ध के शारीरिक अवशेषों और प्रारंभिक अनुयायियों से जुड़े अवशेष माना जाता है, जिन्हें औपनिवेशिक काल में ले जाया गया था और मई में हांगकांग में सोथबीज़ द्वारा नीलामी के लिए पेश किया गया।

- The Indian government intervened to halt the auction and repatriate the relics.

भारतीय सरकार ने नीलामी रोकने और अवशेषों को वापस लाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप किया।

- These artifacts now reside in the **National Museum**, giving people direct access to **India's and Buddhism's heritage**.

ये कलाकृतियां अब राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय में रखी गई हैं, जिससे लोगों को भारत और बौद्ध विरासत से सीधे जुड़ने का अवसर मिलता है।



- India's coordinated diplomatic effort, involving multiple ministries and missions abroad, persuaded **Sotheby's** to postpone and eventually cancel the auction.
कई मंत्रालयों और विदेश मिशनों को शामिल करने वाले भारत के समन्वित कूटनीतिक प्रयास ने **सोथबीज़** को नीलामी स्थगित और अंततः रद्द करने के लिए राजी किया।
- The **Godrej Industries Group** acquired the relics via a negotiated arrangement with **Sotheby's**, reflecting an innovative **public-private partnership**.
गोडरेज इंडस्ट्रीज़ ग्रुप ने **सोथबीज़** के साथ समझौते के जरिए अवशेष हासिल किए, जो एक अभिन्न **सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी** को दर्शाता है।
- This collaboration set a good precedent for future recoveries by combining private sector resources with state authority.
इस सहयोग ने निजी क्षेत्र के संसाधनों को राज्य की शक्ति के साथ जोड़कर भविष्य की पुनर्प्राप्तियों के लिए एक अच्छा उदाहरण स्थापित किया।
- The episode also raised global awareness of **India's role as a steward of Buddhist heritage**.
इस घटना ने **बौद्ध विरासत के संरक्षक के रूप में भारत की भूमिका** के बारे में वैश्विक जागरूकता बढ़ाई।

Structural Deficiencies and Legal Challenges

संरचनात्मक कमियां और कानूनी चुनौतियां

- The case revealed **structural deficiencies** in India's framework for recovering and safeguarding **cultural assets**.
इस मामले ने **सांस्कृतिक धरोहरों** की पुनर्प्राप्ति और संरक्षण के लिए भारत के ढांचे में **संरचनात्मक कमियों** को उजागर किया।
- The **relics, excavated during British administration**, had fragmented ownership, creating a complex legal status that hindered repatriation claims after a century.
ब्रिटिश शासन के दौरान निकाले गए अवशेषों की खंडित स्वामित्व व्यवस्था थी, जिसने एक सदी बाद वापसी के दावों को जटिल बना दिया।
- **India's reactive posture** showed gaps in **legal, administrative, and preventive infrastructure** for heritage management.
भारत की **प्रतिक्रियात्मक भूमिका** ने विरासत प्रबंधन के **कानूनी, प्रशासनिक और निवारक ढांचे** में खामियों को दर्शाया।
- The auction was announced and scheduled before India intervened, indicating a lack of proactive monitoring.
नीलामी भारत के हस्तक्षेप से पहले घोषित और तय की गई थी, जो सक्रिय निगरानी की कमी को दर्शाती है।
- **The case highlighted the absence of strong international legal frameworks to prevent the sale of culturally sensitive objects**.
इस मामले ने सांस्कृतिक रूप से संवेदनशील वस्तुओं की बिक्री रोकने के लिए मजबूत **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनी ढांचे** की अनुपस्थिति को उजागर किया।
- While India used national laws and negotiations effectively, it relied on **diplomatic pressure**, which is not scalable.
भारत ने राष्ट्रीय कानूनों और वार्ताओं का प्रभावी उपयोग किया, लेकिन उसने **कूटनीतिक दबाव** पर भरोसा किया, जो एक विस्तार योग्य समाधान नहीं है।



Measures Needed for the Future

भविष्य के लिए आवश्यक कदम

- Create a **centralised, digitised registry** of cultural assets (domestic and overseas) linked with international customs and auction houses for **real-time monitoring** and **early alerts**.
सांस्कृतिक धरोहरों (घरेलू और विदेशी) का **केंद्रीकृत, डिजिटाइज्ड रजिस्टर** बनाया जाए, जिसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा शुल्क और नीलामी घरों से जोड़ा जाए, ताकि **रीयल-टाइम निगरानी** और प्रारंभिक अलर्ट मिल सकें।
- Lead or participate in **international efforts** to develop **binding norms** preventing commercialisation of sacred relics.
पवित्र अवशेषों के व्यावसायीकरण को रोकने के लिए **अनिवार्य मानदंड** बनाने के अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रयासों का नेतृत्व या उनमें भागीदारी की जाए।
- Scale up **public-private partnerships** and involve **philanthropic foundations** and **heritage trusts** to mobilise resources and expertise for recovery and conservation.
सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी को बढ़ाया जाए और **परोपकारी फाउंडेशन** व **विरासत ट्रस्ट** को शामिल किया जाए, ताकि पुनर्प्राप्ति और संरक्षण के लिए संसाधन और विशेषज्ञता जुटाई जा सके।

Quiz

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz पिछले दिन की डेली क्विज़ के प्रश्न और उत्तर

- **National Handloom Day** was first celebrated in this year and in this place. **Ans: 2015; Chennai**
राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा दिवस पहली बार इस वर्ष और इस स्थान पर मनाया गया था। **उत्तर: 2015; चेन्नई**
- This noted painter was born on **August 7, 1871**. **Ans: Abanindranath Tagore**
यह प्रसिद्ध चित्रकार **7 अगस्त 1871** को पैदा हुए थे। **उत्तर: अबनींद्रनाथ ठाकुर**
- This movement of the **Indian Independence struggle** was launched after the **partition of Bengal**. **Ans: Swadeshi Movement**
भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम का यह आंदोलन **बंगाल के विभाजन** के बाद शुरू किया गया था। **उत्तर: स्वदेशी आंदोलन**



BOGOTA

Colombia presidential candidate dies after shooting at a June rally



REUTERS

GS I: Mapping

Colombian presidential candidate Miguel Uribe has died two months after being shot at a campaign rally, his family said on Monday. The 39-year-old conservative senator was shot in the head and leg on June 7 at a rally in the capital Bogota. Officials arrested six suspects linked to the attack, including the alleged shooter. AFP

a rally in the capital **Bogota**.

- **39 वर्षीय** रूढ़िवादी सीनेटर को राजधानी **बोगोटा** में **7 जून** को एक रैली में **सिर** और **पैर** में गोली मारी गई थी।
- Officials arrested **six suspects** linked to the attack, including the alleged shooter.
- अधिकारियों ने हमले से जुड़े **छह संदिग्धों** को गिरफ्तार किया, जिसमें कथित हमलावर भी शामिल है।

Colombia presidential candidate dies after shooting at a June rally

कोलंबिया के राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार की जून रैली में गोलीबारी के बाद मौत

- Colombian presidential candidate **Miguel Uribe** has died **two months** after being shot at a **campaign rally**, his family said on **Monday**.
- कोलंबिया के राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार **मिगुएल उरीबे** की **सोमवार** को उनके परिवार ने पुष्टि की कि **अभियान रैली** में गोली लगने के **दो महीने** बाद उनकी मौत हो गई।
- The **39-year-old** conservative senator was shot in the **head** and **leg** on **June 7** at



'Divine intervention'



Shamans hold images of Peru's President Dina Boluarte and Colombia's President Gustavo Petro during a ritual calling for an end to global conflicts and to avoid a confrontation between the governments of Peru and Colombia in Lima on Monday. AFP

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

1. NC, PDP flay Centre's stand on L-G's powers to nominate MLAs

एल-जी को एमएलए नामित करने के अधिकार पर केंद्र के रुख की एनसी, पीडीपी ने आलोचना की

2. RS returns Manipur Budget Bill in absence of Opposition

विपक्ष की अनुपस्थिति में राज्यसभा ने मणिपुर बजट विधेयक लौटाया

3. Lok Sabha passes Income Tax Bill; officials' powers broadened



लोकसभा ने आयकर विधेयक पारित किया; अधिकारियों के अधिकार बढ़ाए गए

4. **Tax Bills passed without debate; Kiren Rijiju says government will take up important Bills**
बहस के बिना कर विधेयक पारित; किरेन रिजिजू ने कहा सरकार महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक लेगी
5. **Use of EVMs suggested for elections in cooperatives**
सहकारी संस्थाओं के चुनाव में ईवीएम के उपयोग का सुझाव
6. **Reviving civic engagement in health governance**
स्वास्थ्य शासन में नागरिक भागीदारी को पुनर्जीवित करना
7. **Impact of Google Antitrust Case**
गूगल एंटीट्रस्ट मामले का प्रभाव
8. **Will the rules-based international order survive the Trump presidency?**
क्या नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था ट्रंप के राष्ट्रपति कार्यकाल में जीवित रह पाएगी?



NC, PDP flay Centre's stand on L-G's powers to nominate MLAs

GS II: Legislature
The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Several Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) parties, including the ruling National Conference (NC) and the Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), on Monday flayed the Centre's stand on powers of the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) to nominate five MLAs to the Legislative Assembly without the State government's "aid and advice".

"When J&K has an elected government with an absolute majority, bypassing it to let the L-G handpick members is not governance, it is contempt for the people's mandate. It strikes at the heart of parliamentary democracy, ignores the constitutional spirit of 'aid and advice', and sets a dangerous precedent where unelected appointees can rewrite the people's verdict," NC leader and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said.

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also expressed her dismay. "The Government of India's decision to nominate five MLAs in J&K after holding elections is a blatant subversion of democratic principles. Nowh-



Manoj Sinha

ere else in the country does the Centre handpick legislators to override public mandate. In India's only Muslim-majority region, long marred by conflict, this move feels less like governance and more like control," Ms. Mufti said.

Following the "illegal bifurcation" of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, skewed delimitation and discriminatory seat reservations, this nomination was yet another body blow to the idea of democracy in J&K. "Representation must be earned through the people's vote not granted by a Central decree," she added.

Ms. Mufti urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to put up a fight.

CPI(M) leader and Kulgam MLA M.Y. Tarigami too questioned the Home Ministry's justification for empowering the L-G.

NC, PDP flay Centre's stand on L-G's powers to nominate MLAs

एल-जी को एमएलए नामित करने के अधिकार पर केंद्र के रुख की एनसी, पीडीपी ने आलोचना की

- Several Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) parties, including the ruling **National Conference (NC)** and the Opposition **Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)**, on Monday flayed the **Centre's stand on powers of the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) to nominate five MLAs to the Legislative Assembly without the State government's "aid and advice"**.

कई जम्मू-कश्मीर (जे एंड के) पार्टियों, जिनमें सत्तारूढ़ नेशनल कॉन्फ्रेंस (एनसी) और विपक्षी पीपुल्स डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी (पीडीपी) शामिल हैं, ने सोमवार को राज्य सरकार की "सलाह और सहमति" के बिना उप-राज्यपाल (एल-जी) को पांच विधायकों को विधानसभा में नामित करने के अधिकार पर केंद्र के रुख की आलोचना की।

- "When **J&K** has an elected government with an absolute majority, bypassing it to let the **L-G** handpick members is not governance, it is contempt for the people's mandate.

- It strikes at the heart of parliamentary democracy, **ignores the constitutional spirit of 'aid and advice', and sets a dangerous precedent where unelected appointees can rewrite the people's verdict,"** NC leader and MLA **Tanvir Sadiq** said.

"जब जम्मू-कश्मीर में पूर्ण बहुमत वाली निर्वाचित सरकार है, तो उसे दरकिनार कर एल-जी को सदस्यों को चुनने देना शासन

नहीं है, यह जनता के जनादेश का अपमान है। यह संसदीय लोकतंत्र के मूल पर प्रहार करता है, 'सलाह और सहमति' की संवैधानिक भावना की अनदेखी करता है, और एक खतरनाक मिसाल कायम करता है जिसमें गैर-निर्वाचित नियुक्त व्यक्ति जनता के फैसले को बदल सकते हैं," एनसी नेता और विधायक **तनवीर सादिक** ने कहा।

- Former Chief Minister and **PDP** president **Mehbooba Mufti** also expressed her dismay. "The Government of India's decision to nominate **five MLAs** in **J&K** after holding elections is a blatant subversion of democratic principles. Nowhere else in the country does the Centre handpick legislators to override public mandate. In India's only Muslim-majority region, long marred by conflict, this move feels less like governance and more like control," Ms. **Mufti** said.

पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और पीडीपी अध्यक्ष **महबूबा मुफ्ती** ने भी अपनी नाराजगी जताई। "भारत सरकार का



चुनाव कराने के बाद जम्मू-कश्मीर में पांच विधायकों को नामित करने का निर्णय लोकतांत्रिक सिद्धांतों का खुला उल्लंघन है। देश के किसी और हिस्से में केंद्र जनादेश को दरकिनारा करने के लिए विधायकों को खुद नहीं चुनता। भारत के एकमात्र मुस्लिम-बहुल क्षेत्र में, जो लंबे समय से संघर्ष से ग्रस्त है, यह कदम शासन से ज्यादा नियंत्रण जैसा लगता है," सुश्री मुफ्ती ने कहा।

- Following the "illegal bifurcation" of the erstwhile State of **Jammu and Kashmir**, skewed delimitation and discriminatory seat reservations, this nomination was yet another body blow to the idea of democracy in **J&K**. "Representation must be earned through the people's vote not granted by a Central decree," she added.

पूर्ववर्ती जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्य के "अवैध विभाजन", पक्षपातपूर्ण परिसीमन और भेदभावपूर्ण सीट आरक्षण के बाद, यह नामांकन जम्मू-कश्मीर में लोकतंत्र की अवधारणा पर एक और गहरा आघात था। "प्रतिनिधित्व जनता के वोट से अर्जित किया जाना चाहिए, न कि केंद्र के आदेश से दिया जाना चाहिए," उन्होंने जोड़ा।

- Ms. **Mufti** urged Chief Minister **Omar Abdullah** to put up a fight.
सुश्री मुफ्ती ने मुख्यमंत्री ओमर अब्दुल्ला से लड़ाई लड़ने का आह्वान किया।
- **CPI(M)** leader and **Kulgam MLA M.Y. Tarigami** too questioned the **Home Ministry's** justification for empowering the **L-G**.

सीपीआई(एम) नेता और कुलगाम विधायक एम.वाई. तारिगामी ने भी गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा एल-जी को सशक्त बनाने के औचित्य पर सवाल उठाया।



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

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RS returns Manipur Budget Bill in absence of Opposition

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha discussed and returned to the Lower House the Budget and Appropriation Bills of Manipur, and the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill on Monday, in the absence of members from Opposition parties.

Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, questioned the Union government for holding a debate while Opposition members were away to protest in front of the Election Commission against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar and alleged discrepancies in the voter lists in several other States.

The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill provides reservation to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Goa Assembly. The Bill was passed by a voice vote.

The Upper House returned the Manipur budget, the Manipur Appropriation Bill, and the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, too, during the day, without a brief discussion, in the absence of the Opposition. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said both Bills were very critical for Manipur, and asked the Opposition to participate in the discussion.

Mr. Kharge, meanwhile, questioned how the Bills were being passed in a din. "...The House should be in order to have a discussion... This is a betrayal of democracy," he said. Leader of the House and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said democracy should be protected, but the House "cannot be held hostage".

RS returns Manipur Budget Bill in absence of Opposition

विपक्ष की अनुपस्थिति में राज्यसभा ने मणिपुर बजट विधेयक लौटाया

• The Rajya Sabha discussed and returned to the Lower House the Budget and Appropriation Bills of Manipur, and the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill on Monday, in the absence of members from Opposition parties.

राज्यसभा ने सोमवार को विपक्षी दलों के सदस्यों की अनुपस्थिति में मणिपुर के बजट और अनुदान विधेयक तथा गोवा राज्य में विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अनुसूचित जनजातियों के प्रतिनिधित्व के पुनः समायोजन से संबंधित विधेयक पर चर्चा की और उन्हें लोकसभा को लौटा दिया।

• Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, questioned the Union government for holding a debate while Opposition members were away to protest in front of the Election Commission against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar and alleged discrepancies in the voter lists in several other States.

राज्यसभा में विपक्ष के नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने केंद्र सरकार से सवाल किया कि जब विपक्षी सदस्य बिहार में विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR) और कई अन्य राज्यों में मतदाता सूची में कथित गड़बड़ियों के खिलाफ चुनाव आयोग के सामने प्रदर्शन कर रहे थे, तब बहस क्यों कराई गई।

• The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill provides reservation to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Goa Assembly. The Bill was passed by a voice vote.

गोवा राज्य में विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अनुसूचित जनजातियों के प्रतिनिधित्व के पुनः समायोजन से संबंधित विधेयक गोवा विधानसभा में अनुसूचित जनजातियों (STs) को आरक्षण प्रदान करता है। यह विधेयक स्वर मतदान से पारित किया गया।

The Upper House returned the Manipur budget, the Manipur Appropriation Bill, and the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, too, during the day, without a brief discussion, in the absence of the Opposition. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said both Bills were very critical for Manipur, and asked the Opposition to participate in the discussion.

उच्च सदन ने दिन में, विपक्ष की अनुपस्थिति में, बिना संक्षिप्त चर्चा के मणिपुर बजट, मणिपुर अनुदान विधेयक, और मणिपुर वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (संशोधन) विधेयक भी लौटा दिए। केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि दोनों विधेयक मणिपुर के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और विपक्ष से चर्चा में भाग लेने का आग्रह किया।

• Mr. Kharge, meanwhile, questioned how the Bills were being passed in a din. "...The House should be in order to have a discussion... This is a betrayal of democracy," he said. Leader of the House and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said democracy should be protected, but the House "cannot be held hostage".

इसी बीच श्री खड़गे ने सवाल किया कि शोर-शराबे के बीच विधेयक कैसे पारित हो रहे हैं। "...चर्चा के लिए सदन सुव्यवस्थित होना चाहिए... यह लोकतंत्र के साथ विश्वासघात है," उन्होंने कहा। सदन के



नेता और केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा ने कहा कि लोकतंत्र की रक्षा होनी चाहिए, लेकिन सदन को “बंधक नहीं बनाया जा सकता”।

Lok Sabha passes Income Tax Bill; officials' powers broadened

The proposed law will allow officials to forcibly break into personal emails and social media accounts of assesseees during search operations; the revised version has around 2.59 lakh words compared with the 5.12 lakh words in the I-T Act, 1961

GS II: Polity

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the revised Income Tax Bill, 2025.

The Bill seeks to simplify, rationalise, and shorten the existing Income Tax Act, 1961. It also broadens the powers of income tax officials, allowing them to forcibly break into personal emails and social media accounts of assesseees during search operations.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had introduced the previous version of the Bill in the Lok Sabha in February, following which it was sent to a Select Committee chaired by Baijayant Panda for a review. The Select Committee submitted its recommendations on July 21. Following this, the government on Friday withdrew the Bill to incorpo-



Opposition MPs troop to the Well of the House in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday. SANSAD TV

rate the suggestions made by the committee.

Ms. Sitharaman introduced the updated version – the Income Tax (No. 2) Bill, 2025 – in the Lower House on Monday. The Bill has around 2.59 lakh words compared with the 5.12 lakh words in the Income Tax Act, 1961. The number of chapters has been brought down to 23 from 47 and the number of Sections to 536 from 819.

In order to provide greater clarity, the new Bill has increased the number of tables to 57 from 18 and the number of formulae to 46 from six.

In search operations

Apart from these changes, the new Bill has also tweaked the powers of income tax officials during search and seizure operations.

The new Bill requires

any person “who is found to be in possession or control of” any books of account or other documents in electronic form to provide the authorised officer assistance in accessing these, “including access code, by whatever name called”.

Further, it allows the authorised officer to “override the access code to any computer system” if the access code is not made available.

The Select Committee defended these provisions in its report, saying that various “incriminating evidences and material are found/seized from electronic records including WhatsApp communications, emails, etc.” and that passwords for these are often not shared with officials. However, a few members of the committee submitted dissent notes calling for changes to these

provisions. Congress MP Amar Singh argued that the wording of the relevant section “gives very wide-ranging power to the government to force tax payees to hand over all types of personal digital data including passwords, chats, etc.” and asked for a reduction in these powers.

“This provision is arbitrary and [gives] excess powers to the authorities and there is every chance of misuse of this provisions and ultimately infringing the Right to Privacy of an individual guaranteed in the Constitution and reiterated by the Supreme Court in *Puttaswamy* case,” Revolutionary Socialist Party leader N.K. Premachandran said in his dissent note.

He added that the provisions in the original Income Tax Act, 1961 were sufficient and should be retained.

Lok Sabha passes Income Tax Bill; officials' powers broadened

लोकसभा ने आयकर विधेयक पारित किया; अधिकारियों के अधिकार बढ़ाए गए

- The proposed law will allow officials to forcibly break into personal emails and social media accounts of assesseees during search operations; the revised version has around 2.59 lakh words compared with the 5.12 lakh words in the I-T Act, 1961.

प्रस्तावित कानून अधिकारियों को तलाशी अभियान के दौरान असेसी के निजी ईमेल और सोशल मीडिया खातों में जबरन घुसने की अनुमति देगा; संशोधित संस्करण में लगभग 2.59 लाख शब्द हैं जबकि आयकर अधिनियम, 1961 में 5.12 लाख शब्द हैं।

- The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the revised Income Tax Bill, 2025. लोकसभा ने सोमवार को संशोधित आयकर विधेयक, 2025 पारित किया।
- The Bill seeks to simplify, rationalise, and shorten the existing Income Tax Act, 1961. It also broadens the powers of income tax officials, allowing them to forcibly



break into personal emails and social media accounts of **assesseees** during search operations.

विधेयक का उद्देश्य मौजूदा **आयकर अधिनियम, 1961** को सरल, तर्कसंगत और छोटा बनाना है।

यह **आयकर अधिकारियों** के अधिकारों का भी विस्तार करता है, जिससे वे तलाशी अभियान के दौरान **असेसी** के निजी ईमेल और सोशल मीडिया खातों में जबरन प्रवेश कर सकें।

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** had introduced the previous version of the Bill in the **Lok Sabha** in **February**, following which it was sent to a **Select Committee** chaired by **Baijayant Panda** for a review. The Select Committee submitted its recommendations on **July 21**.

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने विधेयक के पिछले संस्करण को **फरवरी** में **लोकसभा** में पेश किया था, जिसके बाद इसे समीक्षा के लिए **बैजयंत पांडा** की अध्यक्षता वाली **चयन समिति** को भेजा गया। चयन समिति ने अपनी सिफारिशें **21 जुलाई** को प्रस्तुत कीं।

- Following this, the government on **Friday** withdrew the Bill to incorporate the suggestions made by the committee.
इसके बाद सरकार ने **शुक्रवार** को समिति द्वारा दिए गए सुझावों को शामिल करने के लिए विधेयक को वापस ले लिया।
- Ms. Sitharaman introduced the updated version — the **Income Tax (No. 2) Bill, 2025** — in the **Lower House** on **Monday**. The Bill has around **2.59 lakh words** compared with the **5.12 lakh words** in the **Income Tax Act, 1961**.

श्रीमती सीतारमण ने **सोमवार** को **निचले सदन** में अद्यतन संस्करण — **आयकर (सं. 2) विधेयक, 2025** — पेश किया। इस विधेयक में लगभग **2.59 लाख शब्द** हैं जबकि **आयकर अधिनियम, 1961** में **5.12 लाख शब्द** हैं।

- The **number of chapters** has been brought down to **23** from **47** and the number of **Sections** to **536** from **819**.

अध्यायों की संख्या **47** से घटाकर **23** कर दी गई है और **धाराओं** की संख्या **819** से घटाकर **536** कर दी गई है।

- In order to provide greater clarity, the new Bill has increased the number of **tables** to **57** from **18** and the number of **formulae** to **46** from **six**.
अधिक स्पष्टता प्रदान करने के लिए, नए विधेयक में **तालिकाओं** की संख्या **18** से बढ़ाकर **57** कर दी गई है और **सूत्रों** की संख्या **छह** से बढ़ाकर **46** कर दी गई है।

- **In search operations** — Apart from these changes, the new Bill has also tweaked the powers of **income tax officials** during search and seizure operations.

तलाशी अभियानों में — इन बदलावों के अलावा, नए विधेयक ने तलाशी और जब्ती अभियानों के दौरान **आयकर अधिकारियों** के अधिकारों में भी बदलाव किया है।

- The new Bill requires any person “who is found to be in possession or control of” any books of account or other documents in **electronic form** to provide the authorised officer assistance in accessing these, “including access code, by whatever name called”.

नया विधेयक किसी भी व्यक्ति से, जो **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रूप** में किसी लेखा पुस्तक या अन्य दस्तावेज के “अधिकार या नियंत्रण” में पाया जाता है, अधिकृत अधिकारी को इन्हें एक्सेस करने में मदद करने की मांग करता है, “जिसमें एक्सेस कोड, किसी भी नाम से जाना जाता हो, शामिल है।”

- Further, it allows the authorised officer to “**override the access code to any computer system**” if the access code is not made available.

इसके अलावा, यह अधिकृत अधिकारी को अनुमति देता है कि यदि एक्सेस कोड उपलब्ध नहीं कराया गया हो तो वह “किसी भी कंप्यूटर सिस्टम का एक्सेस कोड ओवरराइड” कर सके।



- The **Select Committee** defended these provisions in its report, saying that various “incriminating evidences and material are found/seized from electronic records including **WhatsApp communications, emails, etc.**” and that passwords for these are often not shared with officials.

चयन समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में इन प्रावधानों का बचाव किया, यह कहते हुए कि विभिन्न “अपराधी साक्ष्य और सामग्री **व्हाट्सएप संदेश, ईमेल, आदि** सहित इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रिकॉर्ड से पाई/जब्त की जाती है” और इनके पासवर्ड अक्सर अधिकारियों के साथ साझा नहीं किए जाते।

- However, a few members of the committee submitted dissent notes calling for changes to these provisions.

हालांकि, समिति के कुछ सदस्यों ने इन प्रावधानों में बदलाव की मांग करते हुए असहमति नोट प्रस्तुत किए।

- **Congress MP Amar Singh** argued that the wording of the relevant section “gives very wide-ranging power to the government to force tax payees to hand over all types of personal digital data including passwords, chats, etc.” and asked for a reduction in these powers.

कांग्रेस सांसद अमर सिंह ने तर्क दिया कि संबंधित धारा की भाषा “सरकार को करदाताओं को पासवर्ड, चैट आदि सहित सभी प्रकार के व्यक्तिगत डिजिटल डेटा सौंपने के लिए मजबूर करने की बहुत व्यापक शक्ति देती है” और इन शक्तियों में कमी की मांग की।

- “This provision is arbitrary and [gives] excess powers to the authorities and there is every chance of misuse of this provision and ultimately infringing the **Right to Privacy of an individual guaranteed in the Constitution and reiterated by the Supreme Court in Puttaswamy case,**” **Revolutionary Socialist Party** leader **N.K. Premachandran** said in his dissent note.

“यह प्रावधान मनमाना है और अधिकारियों को अत्यधिक शक्तियां [देता] है और इस प्रावधान के दुरुपयोग की पूरी संभावना है और अंततः यह व्यक्ति के **गोपनीयता के अधिकार** का उल्लंघन करेगा, जो **संविधान** में सुनिश्चित है और जिसे **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने **पुट्टस्वामी मामले** में दोहराया है,” **क्रांतिकारी समाजवादी पार्टी** के नेता **एन.के. प्रेमचंद्रन** ने अपने असहमति नोट में कहा।

- He added that the provisions in the original **Income Tax Act, 1961** were sufficient and should be retained.

उन्होंने जोड़ा कि मूल **आयकर अधिनियम, 1961** के प्रावधान पर्याप्त थे और उन्हें बनाए रखा जाना चाहिए।



Tax Bills passed without debate; Kiren Rijiju says government will take up important Bills

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As Opposition members continued their protest, the Lok Sabha on Monday passed two crucial Bills pertaining to taxation without any debate.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the **Income Tax (No. 2) Bill and the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill** in the Lok Sabha when no Opposition member was present in the House. Most of the Opposition leaders had been detained while

marching towards the headquarters of the Election Commission in protest against the revision of the Bihar electoral rolls and alleged electoral malpractices. After they returned, the Opposition members continued raising slogans in the Well of the House. Amid the din, the two taxation Bills were passed by voice vote.

Sports Bill passed

The Lok Sabha also passed the **National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025** and the **National Sports**



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha on Monday. SANSAD TV

Governance Bill, 2025.

These Bills were also introduced when the Opposition members were not present in the House. Two

members spoke in support of the Bills. Earlier, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, while taking up the two Bills for passage, said the government had made "several attempts" to bring forward legislation on sports governance.

"In the coming days, when India is going to bid for the Olympics, it is important that our sports ecosystem is robust, transparent and accountable. This is a crucial step in that direction," he said.

When the House met in

the morning, the Opposition members were on their feet, raising slogans and holding placards. Speaker Om Birla tried to run the Question Hour for about 10 minutes, but the Opposition members were relentless in their protests.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju targeted the Congress-led Opposition for the repeated disruptions, and asserted that the government would now proceed with the passage of important Bills in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Tax Bills passed without debate; Kiren Rijiju says government will take up important Bills

बहस के बिना कर विधेयक पारित; किरिन रिजिजू ने कहा सरकार महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक लेगी

- As **Opposition members** continued their protest, the **Lok Sabha** on **Monday** passed two crucial **Bills** pertaining to **taxation** without any debate.
जैसे ही विपक्ष के सदस्य अपना विरोध जारी रखे हुए थे, सोमवार को लोकसभा ने कराधान से संबंधित दो महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक बिना किसी बहस के पारित कर दिए।
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** introduced the **Income Tax (No. 2) Bill** and the **Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill** in the **Lok Sabha** when no **Opposition member** was present in the House.
केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने आयकर (संख्या 2) विधेयक और कराधान कानून (संशोधन) विधेयक लोकसभा में तब पेश किया जब सदन में कोई भी विपक्ष सदस्य मौजूद नहीं था।
- Most of the **Opposition leaders** had been **detained** while marching towards the headquarters of the **Election Commission** in protest against the **revision** of the **Bihar electoral rolls** and alleged **electoral malpractices**.
अधिकांश विपक्षी नेताओं को बिहार मतदाता सूची के संशोधन और कथित चुनावी गड़बड़ियों के खिलाफ चुनाव आयोग के मुख्यालय की ओर मार्च करते समय हिरासत में ले लिया गया था।
- After they returned, the **Opposition members** continued raising slogans in the **Well of the House**.
लौटने के बाद, विपक्षी सदस्यों ने सदन के भीतर नारेबाजी जारी रखी।
- Amid the **din**, the two **taxation Bills** were passed by **voice vote**.
शोर-शराबे के बीच, दोनों कराधान विधेयक स्वर मत से पारित किए गए।



Sports Bill passed

खेल विधेयक पारित

- The **Lok Sabha** also passed the **National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025** and the **National Sports Governance Bill, 2025**.
लोकसभा ने राष्ट्रीय एंटी-डोपिंग (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 और राष्ट्रीय खेल शासन विधेयक, 2025 भी पारित किया।
- These **Bills** were also introduced when the **Opposition members** were not present in the **House**.
ये विधेयक भी तब पेश किए गए जब विपक्षी सदस्य सदन में मौजूद नहीं थे।
- Two members spoke in support of the **Bills**.
दो सदस्यों ने विधेयकों के समर्थन में बात की।
- Earlier, **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya**, while taking up the two **Bills** for passage, said the government had made "**several attempts**" to bring forward **legislation on sports governance**.
इससे पहले, केंद्रीय युवा मामले और खेल मंत्री मनसुख मांडविया ने इन दो विधेयकों को पारित करने के दौरान कहा कि सरकार ने खेल शासन पर कानून लाने के लिए "कई प्रयास" किए हैं।
- "In the coming days, when **India** is going to **bid for the Olympics**, it is important that our **sports ecosystem is robust, transparent and accountable**. This is a crucial step in that direction," he said.
"आने वाले दिनों में, जब भारत ओलंपिक की मेजबानी के लिए बोली लगाने जा रहा है, यह जरूरी है कि हमारा खेल तंत्र मजबूत, पारदर्शी और जवाबदेह हो। यह उस दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है," उन्होंने कहा।
- When the **House** met in the morning, the **Opposition members** were on their feet, raising slogans and holding placards.
सुबह जब सदन की बैठक हुई, तो विपक्षी सदस्य खड़े होकर नारे लगा रहे थे और तख्तियां पकड़े हुए थे।
- **Speaker Om Birla** tried to run the **Question Hour** for about **10 minutes**, but the **Opposition members** were relentless in their protests.
स्पीकर ओम बिड़ला ने लगभग 10 मिनट तक प्रश्नकाल चलाने की कोशिश की, लेकिन विपक्षी सदस्य अपने विरोध में अडिग रहे।
- **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju** targeted the **Congress-led Opposition** for the repeated disruptions, and asserted that the government would now proceed with the passage of **important Bills** in the **Lok Sabha** and the **Rajya Sabha**.
संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरन रिजजू ने बार-बार के व्यवधानों के लिए कांग्रेस नेतृत्व वाले विपक्ष को निशाना बनाया और कहा कि अब सरकार लोकसभा और राज्यसभा में महत्वपूर्ण विधेयकों को पारित करने की प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ाएगी।



Use of EVMs suggested for elections in cooperatives

GS II: Cooperatives

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The State Cooperative Election Authorities have proposed to use electronic voting machines (EVM) in cooperative elections, the Union Ministry of Cooperation said on Monday.

The Cooperative Election Authority held its first consultative meeting with the State Cooperative Election Authorities on Monday to develop a mechanism to conduct elections in a free and fair manner.

The meeting chaired by Devendra Kumar Singh, Chairperson of Cooperative Election Authority, saw the participation of State Cooperative Election Commissioners from Odisha, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Maharashtra. The Cooperative Election Authority has so far conducted 159 elections since March 2024 and is in the process of conducting 69 more elections, Mr. Singh said.

Use of EVMs suggested for elections in cooperatives

सहकारी संस्थाओं के चुनाव में ईवीएम के उपयोग का सुझाव

• The State Cooperative Election Authorities have proposed to use electronic voting machines (EVM) in cooperative elections, the Union Ministry of Cooperation said on Monday.

• राज्य सहकारी चुनाव प्राधिकरणों ने सहकारी चुनावों में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीन (ईवीएम) के उपयोग का प्रस्ताव दिया है, केंद्रीय सहयोग मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को कहा।

• • The Cooperative Election Authority held its first consultative meeting with the State Cooperative Election Authorities on Monday to develop a mechanism to conduct elections in a free and fair manner.

• सहकारी चुनाव प्राधिकरण ने राज्य सहकारी चुनाव प्राधिकरणों के साथ सोमवार को अपनी पहली परामर्श बैठक की, ताकि चुनावों को मुक्त और निष्पक्ष तरीके से कराने के लिए एक तंत्र विकसित किया जा सके।

• • The meeting chaired by Devendra Kumar Singh, Chairperson of Cooperative Election Authority, saw the participation of State Cooperative Election Commissioners from Odisha, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

• सहकारी चुनाव प्राधिकरण के अध्यक्ष देवेन्द्र कुमार सिंह की अध्यक्षता में हुई बैठक में ओडिशा, बिहार, तमिलनाडु, तेलंगाना और महाराष्ट्र के राज्य सहकारी चुनाव आयुक्तों ने भाग लिया।

• • The Cooperative Election Authority has so far conducted 159 elections since March 2024 and is in the process of conducting 69 more elections, Mr. Singh said.

• सहकारी चुनाव प्राधिकरण अब तक मार्च 2024 से 159 चुनाव करा चुका है और 69 और चुनाव कराने की प्रक्रिया में है, श्री सिंह ने कहा।



Reviving civic engagement in health governance

GS II: Government Scheme

The (Medicine at people's doorstep) scheme, introduced in Tamil Nadu in August 2021, and the Karnataka's Gruha Arogya scheme, launched in October 2024 and expanded to all districts in June 2025, aim to deliver health care at doorsteps for persons with non-communicable diseases.

Several other States are implementing similar programmes. While such initiatives represent significant strides toward proactive health care, they also prompt a profound question: as the system strives to reach people's doorsteps, to what extent are citizens themselves able to reach, engage with, and influence health governance at different levels formally?

The subject of citizen engagement

Health governance, once a government-led function, now includes diverse actors such as civil society, professional bodies, hospital associations and trade unions. It operates through formal and informal social processes, with power dynamics shaping participation and influence. Public engagement in health policy processes is essential because it affirms self-respect, counters epistemic injustice and upholds democratic values by enabling people to shape decisions affecting their health and health-care services.

Inclusive participation strengthens accountability, challenges elite dominance and reduces corruption. Without it, health governance risks becoming oppressive and unjust. Moreover, engaging communities fosters collaboration with frontline workers, improves service uptake, and supports better health outcomes. It also builds mutual understanding and trust between communities and providers.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in 2005, institutionalised public engagement in India's health governance through platforms such as Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) and Rogi Kalyan Samitis. These were designed to be inclusive, particularly of women and marginalised groups, and supported by untied funds for local



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As States begin to bring health care directly to doorsteps, steps must be taken to engage communities as active participants in shaping health systems

initiatives. In urban areas, key platforms for civic participation include Mahila Arogya Samitis, Ward Committees, and non-government organisation-led committees. Despite their potential, in some areas these committees have not been established, while in others where they do exist, they face persistent challenges such as ambiguous roles, infrequent meetings, underutilisation of funds, poor intersectoral coordination, and deeply rooted social hierarchies.

Where the problem lies

A major challenge in India's health system lies in the prevailing mindset toward public engagement. Policymakers, health administrators and providers often view communities as passive recipients of care rather than as active participants in shaping health systems. Programme performance is typically measured through target-based metrics, such as the number of "beneficiaries" reached, with little reflection on how programmes are implemented or experienced on the ground.

The use of the term "beneficiaries" itself signals a deeper issue: it frames citizens as objects of intervention, not as rights-holders or co-creators of health systems. Although the National Health Mission promotes bottom-up planning, including community participation in Programme Implementation Plans, such engagement is rare in practice.

Health governance spaces remain dominated by medical professionals, predominantly trained in western biomedical models. Health administrative leadership, across national, State, district, and sub-district levels, is typically held by doctors who are expected to learn public health administration on the job. Promotions are often based on seniority rather than public health expertise, reinforcing a medicalised and hierarchical system that remains disconnected from community realities.

Scholarly work on health policy suggests that resistance to public engagement often stems from concerns over increased workload, greater

accountability pressures, regulatory capture by dominant medical and capitalist interests, and the absence of a level playing field in governance processes.

In the absence of functional or inclusive engagement platforms, citizens often resort to alternative channels, such as protests, media campaigns, and legal action to make their voices heard. These responses reflect a deep and unmet need for participation, voice and accountability in health governance in India.

The need for a shift

A fundamental mindset shift is needed among governance actors. Community engagement must no longer be seen as merely to achieve programme targets. Treating people as instrumental to health outcomes is not only reductive but also deeply disrespectful to their agency and dignity. Participatory processes are as important as the outcomes they seek to achieve.

To enable meaningful community engagement in health governance, we must adopt a two-pronged approach. First, this involves actively empowering communities: disseminating information about health rights and governance platforms; fostering civic awareness early; making intentional efforts to reach marginalised groups; and equipping citizens with knowledge, tools, and resources needed to participate effectively in health care decision-making processes.

Second, we must sensitise health system actors to move beyond framing poor awareness as the sole reason for low health-seeking behaviour and health-care utilisation among people.

This narrow approach risks individualising blame, further victimising already vulnerable populations, and ignoring the structural determinants of health inequities. True transformation requires that health professionals view communities as partners, not passive recipients, and that they work collaboratively to address root causes. Establishing platforms for public engagement is a necessary starting point, but these platforms must be activated, strengthened, and made meaningful.

Reviving civic engagement in health governance

स्वास्थ्य शासन में नागरिक भागीदारी को पुनर्जीवित करना

The 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' and Karnataka's Gruha Arogya Schemes

'मक्कलै थेडी मरुथुवम' और कर्नाटक की 'गृह आरोग्य' योजनाएं

- The 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (Medicine at people's doorstep) scheme, introduced in Tamil Nadu in August 2021, and the Karnataka's Gruha Arogya scheme, launched in October 2024 and expanded to all districts in June 2025, aim to deliver health care at doorsteps for persons with non-communicable diseases.

'मक्कलै थेडी मरुथुवम (लोगों के दरवाजे पर दवा)' योजना, तमिलनाडु में अगस्त 2021 में शुरू की गई, और कर्नाटक की गृह आरोग्य योजना, अक्टूबर 2024 में शुरू हुई और जून 2025 में सभी जिलों में विस्तारित हुई, का उद्देश्य गैर-संचारी रोगों से पीड़ित लोगों के दरवाजे तक स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं पहुंचाना है।

- Several other States are implementing similar programmes. कई अन्य राज्य भी इसी तरह की योजनाएं लागू कर रहे हैं।
- While such initiatives represent significant strides toward proactive health care, they also prompt a profound question: as the system strives to reach people's doorsteps,



to what extent are **citizens** themselves able to reach, engage with, and influence **health governance** at different levels formally?

जबकि ऐसे प्रयास सक्रिय स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम हैं, वे एक गहन प्रश्न भी उठाते हैं: जब प्रणाली लोगों के दरवाजे तक पहुंचने का प्रयास करती है, तो किस हद तक नागरिक स्वयं औपचारिक रूप से विभिन्न स्तरों पर स्वास्थ्य शासन तक पहुंच, उसमें भागीदारी और प्रभाव डालने में सक्षम हैं?

- **The subject of citizen engagement**

नागरिक सहभागिता का विषय

- **Health governance**, once a government-led function, now includes diverse actors such as **civil society, professional bodies, hospital associations and trade unions**.

स्वास्थ्य शासन, जो कभी सरकार-प्रेरित कार्य था, अब इसमें नागरिक समाज, व्यावसायिक निकाय, अस्पताल संघ और ट्रेड यूनियनों जैसे विविध पक्ष शामिल हैं।

- It operates through formal and informal **social processes**, with **power dynamics** shaping participation and influence.

यह औपचारिक और अनौपचारिक सामाजिक प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से कार्य करता है, जिसमें सत्ता समीकरण भागीदारी और प्रभाव को आकार देते हैं।

- Public engagement in **health policy processes** is essential because it affirms **self-respect**, counters **epistemic injustice** and upholds **democratic values** by enabling people to shape decisions affecting their **health** and **health-care services**.

स्वास्थ्य नीति प्रक्रियाओं में जनसहभागिता आवश्यक है क्योंकि यह आत्मसम्मान की पुष्टि करती है, ज्ञानात्मक अन्याय का मुकाबला करती है और लोगों को उनके स्वास्थ्य और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं से संबंधित निर्णयों को आकार देने में सक्षम बनाकर लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों को बनाए रखती है।

- **Inclusive participation** strengthens **accountability**, challenges **elite dominance** and reduces **corruption**.

समावेशी भागीदारी जवाबदेही को मजबूत करती है, अभिजात वर्ग के प्रभुत्व को चुनौती देती है और भ्रष्टाचार को कम करती है।

- Without it, **health governance** risks becoming **oppressive** and **unjust**.

इसके बिना, स्वास्थ्य शासन के दमनकारी और अन्यायपूर्ण बनने का खतरा है।

- Moreover, engaging communities fosters collaboration with **frontline workers**, improves **service uptake**, and supports better **health outcomes**.

इसके अलावा, समुदायों की भागीदारी फ्रंटलाइन कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ सहयोग को बढ़ावा देती है, सेवाओं के उपयोग में सुधार करती है और बेहतर स्वास्थ्य परिणामों का समर्थन करती है।

- It also builds **mutual understanding** and **trust** between communities and providers.

यह समुदायों और प्रदाताओं के बीच आपसी समझ और विश्वास भी बनाता है।

- **The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and public engagement**

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NRHM) और जनसहभागिता

- The **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**, launched in **2005**, institutionalised **public engagement** in India's **health governance** through platforms such as **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs)** and **Rogi Kalyan Samitis**.

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NRHM), जो 2005 में शुरू हुआ, ने भारत के स्वास्थ्य शासन में जनसहभागिता को संस्थागत रूप दिया, जैसे ग्राम स्वास्थ्य स्वच्छता और पोषण समितियां (VHSNCs) और रोगी कल्याण समितियां।



- These were designed to be **inclusive**, particularly of **women** and **marginalised groups**, and supported by **untied funds** for local initiatives.
इन्हें समावेशी बनाने के लिए, विशेष रूप से महिलाओं और हाशिए के समूहों के लिए, और स्थानीय पहलों के लिए बिना शर्त फंड से समर्थित किया गया।
- In **urban areas**, key platforms for civic participation include **Mahila Arogya Samitis**, **Ward Committees**, and **non-government organisation-led committees**.
शहरी क्षेत्रों में, नागरिक भागीदारी के लिए प्रमुख मंचों में महिला आरोग्य समितियां, वार्ड समितियां, और गैर-सरकारी संगठनों द्वारा संचालित समितियां शामिल हैं।
- Despite their potential, in some areas these committees have not been **established**, while in others where they do exist, they face persistent challenges such as **ambiguous roles**, **infrequent meetings**, **underutilisation of funds**, poor **intersectoral coordination**, and deeply rooted **social hierarchies**.
अपनी क्षमता के बावजूद, कुछ क्षेत्रों में ये समितियां स्थापित नहीं हुई हैं, जबकि जहां ये मौजूद हैं, वहां इन्हें अस्पष्ट भूमिकाएं, कम बैठकें, फंड का कम उपयोग, कमजोर अंतःक्षेत्रीय समन्वय, और गहराई से जमी हुई सामाजिक पदानुक्रम जैसी लगातार चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

Where the problem lies

समस्या कहाँ निहित है

- A major challenge in **India's health system** lies in the prevailing **mindset toward public engagement**.
भारत की स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में एक प्रमुख चुनौती जनता की सहभागिता के प्रति प्रचलित मानसिकता में निहित है।
- Policymakers, health administrators and providers often view communities as **passive recipients of care** rather than as **active participants** in shaping health systems.
नीति निर्माता, स्वास्थ्य प्रशासक और प्रदाता अक्सर समुदायों को स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों को आकार देने में सक्रिय सहभागी के बजाय केवल देखभाल के निष्क्रिय प्राप्तकर्ता के रूप में देखते हैं।
- Programme performance is typically measured through **target-based metrics**, such as the number of **"beneficiaries" reached**, with little reflection on how programmes are implemented or experienced on the ground.
कार्यक्रम के प्रदर्शन को आमतौर पर लक्षित-आधारित मापदंडों से मापा जाता है, जैसे कि "लाभार्थियों" की संख्या, लेकिन यह कम ही देखा जाता है कि कार्यक्रम जमीन पर कैसे लागू किए जाते हैं या उनका अनुभव कैसा होता है।
- The use of the term **"beneficiaries"** itself signals a deeper issue: it frames citizens as **objects of intervention**, not as **rights-holders** or **co-creators** of health systems.
"लाभार्थी" शब्द का उपयोग ही एक गहरी समस्या को दर्शाता है: यह नागरिकों को हस्तक्षेप के विषय के रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है, न कि अधिकार धारक या स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों के सह-निर्माता के रूप में।
- Although the **National Health Mission** promotes **bottom-up planning**, including community participation in Programme Implementation Plans, such engagement is **rare in practice**.
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन नीचे से ऊपर की योजना बनाने को प्रोत्साहित करता है, जिसमें समुदाय की भागीदारी शामिल है, लेकिन ऐसा व्यावहारिक रूप में दुर्लभ है।
- Health governance spaces remain dominated by **medical professionals**, predominantly trained in **western biomedical models**.



स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन के क्षेत्र में मुख्य रूप से पश्चिमी जैव-चिकित्सा मॉडल में प्रशिक्षित चिकित्सक वर्चस्व रखते हैं।

- Health administrative leadership, across national, State, district, and sub-district levels, is typically held by **doctors** who are expected to learn public health administration on the job
राष्ट्रीय, राज्य, जिला और उप-जिला स्तर पर स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन नेतृत्व सामान्यतः डॉक्टरों के पास होता है जिन्हें नौकरी के दौरान सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन सीखना होता है।
- Promotions are often based on **seniority** rather than **public health expertise**, reinforcing a **medicalised and hierarchical system** that remains disconnected from community realities.
पदोन्नतियाँ अक्सर वरिष्ठता पर आधारित होती हैं न कि सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञता पर, जिससे एक चिकित्सकीय और पदानुक्रमित प्रणाली मजबूत होती है जो समुदाय की वास्तविकताओं से अलग रहती है।
- Scholarly work on health policy suggests that resistance to public engagement often stems from concerns over **increased workload**, greater **accountability pressures**, **regulatory capture** by dominant medical and capitalist interests, and the absence of a **level playing field** in governance processes.
स्वास्थ्य नीति पर विद्वतापूर्ण शोध दर्शाता है कि जनता की भागीदारी के प्रति प्रतिरोध अक्सर बढ़े हुए काम के बोझ, अधिक जवाबदेही दबाव, प्रमुख चिकित्सा और पूंजीवादी हितों द्वारा नियामक कब्जा, और प्रशासनिक प्रक्रियाओं में समान अवसर के अभाव से उत्पन्न होता है।
- In the absence of functional or inclusive engagement platforms, citizens often resort to alternative channels, such as **protests**, **media campaigns**, and **legal action** to make their voices heard.
कार्यात्मक या समावेशी सहभागिता मंचों के अभाव में, नागरिक अपनी आवाज़ पहुँचाने के लिए अक्सर विरोध, मीडिया अभियान और कानूनी कार्रवाई जैसे वैकल्पिक माध्यम अपनाते हैं।
- These responses reflect a deep and unmet need for **participation, voice and accountability** in health governance in India.
ये प्रतिक्रियाएँ भारत में स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन में भागीदारी, आवाज़ और जवाबदेही की गहरी और पूरी न हुई जरूरत को दर्शाती हैं।

The need for a shift परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता

- A fundamental **mindset shift** is needed among governance actors.
प्रशासन के अभिनेताओं के बीच एक मौलिक मानसिकता परिवर्तन आवश्यक है।
- Community engagement must no longer be seen as merely to achieve **programme targets**.
समुदाय की भागीदारी को केवल कार्यक्रम के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए नहीं देखा जाना चाहिए।
- Treating people as **instrumental to health outcomes** is not only reductive but also deeply disrespectful to their **agency and dignity**.
लोगों को केवल स्वास्थ्य परिणामों के साधन के रूप में देखना न केवल संकुचित है बल्कि उनकी क्षमता और गरिमा के प्रति गहरा अपमान भी है।
- Participatory processes are as important as the outcomes they seek to achieve.
भागीदारी प्रक्रियाएँ उन परिणामों के समान ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं जिन्हें वे प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं।



- To enable meaningful community engagement in health governance, we must adopt a **two-pronged approach**.

स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन में सार्थक समुदाय भागीदारी के लिए हमें दो-दिशात्मक दृष्टिकोण अपनाना होगा।

- First, this involves actively **empowering communities**: disseminating information about **health rights and governance platforms**; fostering **civic awareness early**; making intentional efforts to reach **marginalised groups**; and equipping citizens with knowledge, tools, and resources needed to participate effectively in health care decision-making processes.

पहला, इसमें सक्रिय रूप से समुदायों को सशक्त बनाना शामिल है: स्वास्थ्य अधिकारों और प्रशासन मंचों की जानकारी फैलाना; नागरिक जागरूकता को प्रारंभ में बढ़ावा देना; हाशिए पर पड़े समूहों तक जानबूझकर पहुंच बनाना; और नागरिकों को आवश्यक ज्ञान, उपकरण और संसाधन प्रदान करना ताकि वे स्वास्थ्य देखभाल निर्णय-निर्माण प्रक्रियाओं में प्रभावी रूप से भाग ले सकें।

- Second, we must sensitise health system actors to move beyond framing poor awareness as the sole reason for low health-seeking behaviour and health-care utilisation among people.

दूसरा, हमें स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के कार्यकर्ताओं को यह समझाना होगा कि गरीब जागरूकता को लोगों के स्वास्थ्य-संबंधी व्यवहार और स्वास्थ्य सेवा उपयोग में कमी का एकमात्र कारण न मानें।

- This narrow approach risks **individualising blame**, further victimising already vulnerable populations, and ignoring the **structural determinants** of health inequities.

यह संकीर्ण दृष्टिकोण व्यक्तिगत दोषारोपण का जोखिम पैदा करता है, पहले से ही कमजोर आबादी को और अधिक पीड़ित करता है, और स्वास्थ्य असमानताओं के संरचनात्मक कारणों की अनदेखी करता है।

- True transformation requires that health professionals view communities as **partners, not passive recipients**, and that they work collaboratively to address root causes.

वास्तविक परिवर्तन के लिए आवश्यक है कि स्वास्थ्य पेशेवर समुदायों को निष्क्रिय प्राप्तकर्ता के बजाय साझेदार के रूप में देखें और जड़ कारणों को संबोधित करने के लिए सहयोगात्मक रूप से काम करें।

- Establishing platforms for public engagement is a necessary starting point, but these platforms must be **activated, strengthened, and made meaningful**.

सार्वजनिक सहभागिता के मंच स्थापित करना आवश्यक आरंभिक बिंदु है, लेकिन इन मंचों को सक्रिय, सशक्त और सार्थक बनाया जाना चाहिए।

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What will be the impact of Google antitrust case

What were the findings of the **Competition Commission of India's** investigation into Google? Did the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal** uphold the findings of the CCI? Why did the tribunal reduce the financial penalty from ₹936.44 crore to ₹216.69 crore?

GS II: Governance

EXPLAINER

John Xavier

The story so far:

In August 8, the Supreme Court admitted an appeal filed by Alphabet Inc., the parent company of Google, against a judgment of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The tribunal had earlier upheld, at least in part, the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) findings that Google had abused its dominant position in the Android ecosystem to indulge in anti-competitive practices. Alongside Google's appeal, the Court also admitted related petitions from the CCI itself and the Alliance Digital India Foundation (ADIF), which is a coalition of Indian startups critical of Big Tech dominance. A Bench led by Justice P.S. Narasimha has listed the matter for a detailed hearing in November.

What has the CCI accused Google of?

The CCI's investigation into Google began in 2020, sparked by complaints from app developers and industry groups who alleged that Google was using its market dominance in Android to push its own services and restrict fair competition.

By 2022, the Commission concluded that Google had engaged in multiple anti-competitive practices. Chief among them was the mandatory use of the **Google Play Billing System (GPBS)** for in-app purchases on the Play Store. This meant that developers had to use Google's payment processing system, paying a commission that typically ranged between 15% and 30%, rather than integrating their own billing solutions.

The regulator also found that Google exempted its own app YouTube from these billing requirements, giving them a cost advantage over competing services. This, the CCI argued, distorted the level-playing field and harmed both rival developers and consumers.

In addition, the CCI highlighted that the Android licensing model required smartphone makers to pre-install Google's suite of apps – Search, Chrome, YouTube, and others – as a condition for access to the Google Play Store. According to the Commission, this bundling restricted consumer choice and suppressed innovation from alternative app providers.

Based on these findings, the CCI imposed a fine of ₹936.44 crore on Google and issued a set of behavioural remedies, including directives to decouple Google's payment system from Play Store access, ensure transparency in billing data, and refrain from using such data to advantage its own services.

What is Google's defence?

Google rejected the CCI's conclusions, arguing that its practices were designed to enhance user experience, maintain security, and enable a sustainable business model for the Android ecosystem.

The company maintained that Android is an open-source operating system, available for free to device manufacturers, and that Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) are not obligated to install Google's proprietary apps if they choose to license the core Android platform without Play Store access. It argued that pre-installing a set of Google apps was a matter of efficiency and user convenience, and did not prevent users from downloading competing apps.

On the billing side, Google claimed that GPBS ensured safe and reliable



In court: A logo of Google is seen on its office building in Hyderabad. REUTERS

transactions for users, helping to prevent fraud and reduce payment failures. The commission fees, it said, were consistent with industry standards and provided developers access to Google's global infrastructure, distribution reach, and regular security updates.

Google also argued that exempting certain in-house services from GPBS was not anti-competitive but a recognition of differences in their business models. It pointed out that many leading Indian apps like PhonePe, Paytm, and Hotstar had grown successfully on Android, which shows that the market remained vibrant and competitive.

What was the NCLAT's judgment?

In March, the NCLAT delivered its ruling on Google's appeal against the CCI's 2022 order. The tribunal upheld several of the CCI's findings, agreeing that Google's mandatory billing policy and bundling of apps amounted to abuse of dominance. However, it reduced the financial penalty from ₹936.44 crore to ₹216.69 crore, reasoning that the original amount was disproportionate to the conduct in question. The NCLAT also struck down some of the CCI's behavioural directions, holding that certain remedies were either over-broad or lacked sufficient evidentiary basis. In May 2025, following a review petition, the tribunal reinstated two key directions that Google must be transparent about its billing data policies, and that it must not use such data to gain a competitive advantage for its own apps and services.

This partial victory left all parties dissatisfied. Google sought a complete

reversal of the findings, the CCI wanted its original penalties and remedies restored in full, and ADIF argued that the tribunal had gone too easy on Google.

What's at stake now?

The case raises fundamental questions about how much control a dominant platform like Android should have over the devices and services it supports, and to what extent regulators can intervene in the name of competition.

For consumers, a ruling in favour of the CCI could mean more choice and potentially lower prices. If developers can bypass GPBS and use cheaper payment systems, they might pass on some of the savings to users. Greater transparency and restrictions on data use could also enhance privacy and fairness in app rankings and recommendations. However, industry observers warn that loosening Google's control could lead to more fragmentation in Android, with different devices offering inconsistent user experiences.

For smartphone makers, the verdict could influence licensing costs and product flexibility. If the Supreme Court upholds the CCI's original remedies, OEMs might gain more leeway to pre-install competing services or experiment with alternative Android versions without losing access to the Play Store. This could be especially significant for smaller Indian brands that have struggled to differentiate themselves in a Google-centric ecosystem.

For Indian startups and app developers, the case represents an opportunity to level the playing field

against a global giant. ADIF has argued that Google's policies not only limit payment options but also give it an undue edge in promoting its own apps. A strong pro-CCI ruling could give local companies better bargaining power and distribution access.

For Google, the stakes go beyond India. The country is one of its largest markets by user base, and an adverse ruling here could trigger similar regulatory demands in other jurisdictions. It could also force Google to reconsider its global Android business model, especially if courts require it to unbundle services or open its billing systems.

What is the road ahead?

The Supreme Court's hearings in November will likely examine both the legal interpretation of "abuse of dominance" under the Indian competition law and the economic realities of platform markets. Whatever the outcome, the decision will set an important precedent for how India balances innovation, consumer protection, and market fairness in the digital era. With Android powering over 95% of smartphones in the country, the Court's ruling will directly influence how hundreds of millions of Indians access apps, make payments, and use mobile services in the years to come.

If the case ends with strong enforcement of the CCI's original directions, India could emerge as a leading example of robust digital market regulation outside the EU. On the other hand, if the Court sides with Google, it will reaffirm the status quo.

THE GIST

On August 8, the Supreme Court admitted an appeal filed by Alphabet Inc., the parent company of Google, against a judgment of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

The CCI concluded that Google had engaged in multiple anti-competitive practices. Chief among them was the mandatory use of the Google Play Billing System (GPBS) for in-app purchases on the Play Store.

The Supreme Court's hearings in November will likely examine both the legal interpretation of "abuse of dominance" under the Indian competition law and the economic realities of platform markets.



Impact of Google Antitrust Case

गूगल एंटीट्रस्ट मामले का प्रभाव

On August 8, the Supreme Court admitted an appeal filed by **Alphabet Inc.** (parent company of Google) against a judgment of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

8 अगस्त को, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अल्फाबेट इंक. (गूगल की पेरेंट कंपनी) द्वारा राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून अपीलीय अधिकरण (NCLAT) के फैसले के खिलाफ दायर अपील को स्वीकार किया।

The tribunal had earlier upheld, at least in part, the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) findings that Google had abused its dominant position in the Android ecosystem to indulge in anti-competitive practices.

अधिकरण ने पहले, कम से कम आंशिक रूप से, भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) के इस निष्कर्ष को बरकरार रखा था कि गूगल ने एंड्रॉइड ईकोसिस्टम में अपनी प्रभुत्वशाली स्थिति का दुरुपयोग करके प्रतिस्पर्धा-विरोधी गतिविधियों में संलिप्त हुआ।

Alongside Google's appeal, the Court also admitted related petitions from the CCI itself and the Alliance Digital India Foundation (ADIF), a coalition of Indian startups critical of Big Tech dominance.

गूगल की अपील के साथ-साथ, कोर्ट ने CCI और एलायंस डिजिटल इंडिया फाउंडेशन (ADIF) की याचिकाओं को भी स्वीकार किया, जो बिग टेक प्रभुत्व की आलोचना करने वाले भारतीय स्टार्टअप्स का गठबंधन है।

A Bench led by Justice P.S. Narasimha has listed the matter for a detailed hearing in November.

न्यायमूर्ति पी.एस. नरसिम्हा की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने मामले की विस्तृत सुनवाई नवंबर में तय की है।

- What has the CCI accused Google of?

CCI ने गूगल पर क्या आरोप लगाए हैं?

The CCI's investigation into Google began in 2020, sparked by complaints from app developers and industry groups alleging Google was using its market dominance in Android to push its own services and restrict fair competition.

CCI की गूगल पर जांच 2020 में शुरू हुई, जो ऐप डेवलपर्स और उद्योग समूहों की शिकायतों से प्रेरित थी, जिन्होंने आरोप लगाया था कि गूगल एंड्रॉइड में अपने बाजार प्रभुत्व का उपयोग अपनी सेवाओं को बढ़ावा देने और निष्पक्ष प्रतिस्पर्धा को सीमित करने के लिए कर रहा था।

By 2022, the Commission concluded that Google had engaged in multiple anti-competitive practices.

2022 तक, आयोग ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि गूगल ने कई प्रतिस्पर्धा-विरोधी प्रथाओं में हिस्सा लिया था।

Chief among them was the mandatory use of the Google Play Billing System (GPBS) for in-app purchases on the Play Store.



इनमें सबसे प्रमुख था प्ले स्टोर पर इन-ऐप खरीदारी के लिए गूगल प्ले बिलिंग सिस्टम (GPBS) का अनिवार्य उपयोग।

This meant developers had to use Google's payment processing system, paying a commission typically ranging between **15% and 30%**, rather than integrating their own billing solutions.

इसका मतलब था कि डेवलपर्स को गूगल के भुगतान प्रोसेसिंग सिस्टम का उपयोग करना पड़ता था, जिसमें आम तौर पर **15% से 30%** के बीच कमीशन देना पड़ता था, बजाय अपने स्वयं के बिलिंग समाधान को एकीकृत करने के।

The regulator also found that Google exempted its own app **YouTube** from these billing requirements, giving it a **cost advantage** over competing services.

नियामक ने यह भी पाया कि गूगल ने अपने ऐप **यूट्यूब** को इन बिलिंग आवश्यकताओं से मुक्त रखा, जिससे उसे प्रतिस्पर्धी सेवाओं पर **लागत लाभ** मिला।

This, the CCI argued, **distorted** the level-playing field and harmed both rival developers and consumers.

CCI ने तर्क दिया कि इससे **समान अवसर** का माहौल विकृत हुआ और प्रतिद्वंदी डेवलपर्स व उपभोक्ताओं दोनों को नुकसान हुआ।

In addition, the CCI highlighted that the **Android licensing model** required smartphone makers to **pre-install Google's suite of apps** — Search, Chrome, YouTube, and others — as a condition for access to the **Google Play Store**.

इसके अलावा, CCI ने बताया कि **एंड्रॉइड लाइसेंसिंग मॉडल** के तहत स्मार्टफोन निर्माताओं को **गूगल के ऐप्स** — सर्च, क्रोम, यूट्यूब आदि — को **प्री-इंस्टॉल** करना अनिवार्य था ताकि उन्हें **गूगल प्ले स्टोर** तक पहुंच मिल सके।

According to the Commission, this **bundling restricted consumer choice and suppressed innovation from alternative app providers**.

आयोग के अनुसार, इस **बंडलिंग** ने **उपभोक्ता की पसंद** को सीमित कर दिया और वैकल्पिक ऐप प्रदाताओं की **नवाचार क्षमता** को दबा दिया।

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

- **Constitution:** Established under **Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Operational Since:** 1 June 2016.
- **Nature:** Quasi-judicial body that hears appeals against orders passed by certain regulatory authorities.

Composition

- **Chairperson** – Must be a retired or serving Judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice of a High Court.
- **Judicial Members** – Retired/serving High Court Judges.
- **Technical Members** – Persons with expertise in company law, corporate finance, accountancy, or competition law.

NCLAT hears appeals against:

1. **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** orders under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** orders under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.
3. **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** orders under the Competition Act, 2002.



4. Orders under Section 61 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

1.4 Powers

- Same powers as a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure for summoning witnesses, requiring documents, etc.
- Decisions of NCLAT can be appealed **only to the Supreme Court** within **45 days**.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- **Constitution:** Statutory body established under the **Competition Act, 2002**.
- **Objective:** Promote competition, prevent anti-competitive practices, and protect consumer interests.
- **Operational Since:** 2009.

Composition

- **Chairperson** – Expert in law, economics, or commerce.
- **Members** – 2 to 6 members appointed by the Central Government.

Functions

1. **Prohibition of Anti-competitive Agreements** (Section 3).
2. **Prohibition of Abuse of Dominant Position** (Section 4).
3. **Regulation of Combinations** – Mergers, acquisitions (Sections 5 & 6).
4. Competition advocacy & advisory to government.

2.4 Powers

- Investigative powers through the Director General (DG).
- Can impose monetary penalties, issue cease-and-desist orders.

PATRIOTICIAS



KEYWORD



Remaking the world order: U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to the press in the Press Briefing Room at the White House, in Washington D.C., U.S., on August 11. REUTERS

Will the rules-based international order survive the Trump presidency?

The rules-based international order was brought into existence by the U.S. And now with the onslaught of political and economic confrontations foisted on the world by U.S. President Donald Trump, the same order seems to be unravelling

GS II: World Order
Narayan Lakshman

Recent observations on the rules-based international order have suggested that this system of interlocking governance institutions that emerged since the end of World War II, known to some as Pax Americana, might survive or thrive despite the onslaught of political and economic confrontations foisted on the world by U.S. President Donald Trump. The real question is not about its survivability per se, but rather the extent to which it might mutate under pressure from Washington's coercive policy prescriptions inflicted upon developing and emerging economies, particularly across the Asian region.

A few definitional remarks are in order at this point. Firstly, the rules-based international order, a liberal paradigm seen as a remedy to the devastation wreaked by the two World Wars, was brought into existence by the U.S. This was made possible by the U.S. pushing ahead with the Marshall Plan to rebuild war-torn Europe, returning it to a minimum threshold of economic advancement and political stability that would enable the continent to support the global narrative of a unipolar world as envisioned by Washington. Thereafter, a broad set of "norms and institutions that govern international relations as well as broad patterns of power distribution and economic flows across the world, most of it backstopped by American power and leadership" came into force, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (as well as the "Washington consensus" that they implied), and a variety of related organisations. All these institutions existed to put guardrails in place for international politics – in other words these organisations were used as leverage

to limit the regional and global ambitions of any potential rival to the aforementioned unipolar balance of power.

The triumphs of Pax Americana
The argument made by some who see the continuation of the rules-based international order even through the turbulence of the Trump years is that throughout the history of Asia's development, the U.S. has displayed the very same bullying tactics around the region that curbed and shaped the growth trajectory of Asian powerhouse economies. For example, Sandeep Bhardwaj argues that during the post-War years, when Japanese cloth imports of the U.S. outsold American domestic product, the U.S. in 1955 compelled Japan to agree to a voluntary export restriction that capped the latter's share of the U.S. market. However, the U.S. has equally nurtured the quality of openness within the rules-based order, allowing room for Asian and Latin American economies to periodically assert themselves and play a larger role within limited spaces, thus introducing the necessary element of system flexibility that has helped it endure despite a series of economic and political shocks over the past half century.

Examples cited of such openness within Pax Americana include the U.S. and developed nations encouraging developing countries to join the United Nations umbrella of institutions; getting China to join the WTO in 2001 after going slow on global concerns about Beijing's human rights violations; supporting Japan's entry to the G-7 in 1973; strongly backing the entry of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Saudi Arabia into the G20; establishing the UN Millennium Development Goals to backstop the financing of industrialisation in emerging economies; and structural adjustment loans from the IMF. These loans, however,

were a double edged sword, offering a financial lifeline for Asian countries while benefitting U.S. trade policy by forcing the opening up of these markets.

The extent of U.S.' power
There is no denying that the rules-based international order is far from an authoritarian hierarchy of forced policy prescriptions and expected political genuflection of so-called subordinate Asian nations. Yet, it is fair to ask whether such a warped balance of power in favour of the U.S. could ever emerge, given the Asian trajectory of rapid economic growth built on global trading and capital systems, the collective social emancipation of people, the propagation of individual and institutional liberty, and the growing state capacity for meaningful regional action and collaboration. If the sense of agency and autonomous power of Asian nation-states is overlooked, then it leads to a false sense of U.S. munificence in "bestowing" openness and flexibility upon the rules-based order. In reality, the U.S., for all its economic heft and technological prowess had no choice but to find its own place within this complex matrix of competing nations worldwide, each strong in specific economic sectors, but perhaps less so in other areas.

Within this more reasoned paradigm of the global political economy, which neither denies the unipolarity of the present moment nor overstates the U.S.'s ability to impose its hegemonic ambitions on other nations in today's multi-alliance, interconnected and interdependent framework of international engagement, it becomes clear that damage done to the rules-based liberal international order under the second Trump administration will transform the order to the point of it resembling a new order entirely.

Ironically, at the heart of this act of reshaping the rules-based liberal

international order, are not so much the consequences of what the U.S. is inflicting upon Asian nations but rather its abrupt pulling of the rug from under the heels of Europe by undermining the ideological cause and financial prospects of NATO and leaving the continent exposed to the risk of ever-increasing depredations of Russia.

Similarly, the resoluteness with which Mr. Trump has tied his administration to the whims and fancies of the genocidal and warmongering causes of Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu will rewrite the playbook for everyone. This will impact the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, rethinking regional political dynamics, as much as it will aspiring college students from India seeking admissions in countries other than the U.S. in the wake of compulsory social media scrutiny as a condition of visa issuance.

A new order

Yes, the silhouettes of the old rules-based liberal international order will continue to fall upon the new arrangements that the world will find itself forced to confront by the end of the second Trump term.

However, there can be no denying that it will indeed be a new order built on the rise of bilateral agreements in place of broader regional ones.

The newer order will feature the widespread use of economic sanctions to penalise political opponents across the globe in contravention of WTO norms; ever-growing skirmishes and limited wars; a reliance on drones and AI to settle territorial and other disputes; as well as a steady, catastrophic dismembering of global institutions fostering cooperation, reducing transactions costs and speaking up for human rights and standards of international engagement more broadly.

Pax Americana may well give rise to the next phase of its own evolution, Flux Americana.



Will the rules-based international order survive the Trump presidency?

क्या नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था ट्रंप के राष्ट्रपति कार्यकाल में जीवित रह पाएगी?

- The **rules-based international order** was brought into existence by the **U.S.** And now with the onslaught of political and economic confrontations foisted on the world by **U.S. President Donald Trump**, the same order seems to be unravelling.
नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था का निर्माण अमेरिका द्वारा किया गया था और अब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा दुनिया पर थोपे गए राजनीतिक और आर्थिक टकरावों के कारण यह व्यवस्था टूटती हुई नज़र आ रही है।
- Recent observations on the rules-based international order have suggested that this system of interlocking governance institutions that emerged since the end of **World War II**, known to some as **Pax Americana**, might survive or thrive despite the onslaught of political and economic confrontations foisted on the world by **Donald Trump**.
नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था पर हाल के अवलोकनों से पता चलता है कि **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के अंत से उभरी, और कुछ लोगों द्वारा **पैक्स अमेरिकाना** कही जाने वाली, यह परस्पर जुड़ी शासन संस्थाओं की प्रणाली, **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** द्वारा दुनिया पर थोपे गए राजनीतिक और आर्थिक टकरावों के बावजूद जीवित रह सकती है या फल-फूल सकती है।
- The real question is not about its survivability per se, but rather the extent to which it might mutate under pressure from **Washington's coercive policy prescriptions** inflicted upon developing and emerging economies, particularly across the **Asian region**.
वास्तविक सवाल इसकी जीवित रहने की क्षमता के बारे में नहीं है, बल्कि इस बारे में है कि **वॉशिंगटन की जबरदस्ती की नीतिगत शर्तों** के दबाव में, जो विकासशील और उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं, खासकर **एशियाई क्षेत्र** पर डाली गई हैं, यह कितनी बदल सकती है।
- असली सवाल यह है कि यह व्यवस्था कितनी हद तक **वॉशिंगटन की दबावपूर्ण नीतियों** के प्रभाव में विकसित और उभरती हुई अर्थव्यवस्थाओं, खासकर एशिया में, बदल सकती है।
- The rules-based international order is a **liberal paradigm** seen as a remedy to the devastation caused by the two World Wars, brought into existence by the U.S.
नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था एक **उदारवादी दृष्टिकोण** है जिसे दो विश्व युद्धों की तबाही का इलाज माना जाता है, और इसे अमेरिका द्वारा स्थापित किया गया।
- The **U.S. pushed the Marshall Plan** to rebuild war-torn Europe, restoring economic advancement and political stability, supporting the narrative of a **unipolar world** as envisioned by Washington.
अमेरिका ने युद्ध-ग्रस्त यूरोप को पुनर्निर्माण के लिए **मार्शल प्लान** लागू किया, जिससे आर्थिक प्रगति और राजनीतिक स्थिरता वापस आई, और **एकध्रुवीय विश्व** की अमेरिकी कल्पना को समर्थन मिला।
- A broad set of **norms and institutions** governing international relations, power distribution, and economic flows, mostly backed by American power, came into force including the **WTO, IMF, and World Bank**, alongside the “Washington consensus.”



अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों, शक्ति वितरण, और आर्थिक प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करने वाले व्यापक मानदंड और संस्थान, जिनमें अधिकांश अमेरिकी शक्ति द्वारा समर्थित हैं, लागू हुए, जिनमें विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO), अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) और विश्व बैंक शामिल हैं, साथ ही "वॉशिंगटन कंसेंसस" भी।

- These institutions acted as **guardrails** for international politics, limiting ambitions of any potential rival to the unipolar balance of power.

ये संस्थान अंतरराष्ट्रीय राजनीति के लिए **संरक्षण गाइड** की तरह काम करते थे, जो किसी भी संभावित प्रतिद्वंद्वी की एकध्रुवीय शक्ति संतुलन को चुनौती देने की महत्वाकांक्षा को सीमित करते थे।

The Triumphs of Pax Americana

पैक्स अमेरिकाना की सफलताएँ

- Some argue that despite the turbulence during Trump's years, the U.S. displayed bullying tactics in Asia that shaped the growth of powerhouse economies.
कुछ लोगों का तर्क है कि ट्रम्प के कार्यकाल के दौरान हुए संकटों के बावजूद, अमेरिका ने एशिया में धमकाने वाली रणनीतियाँ अपनाईं जो प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के विकास को आकार देती हैं।
- For example, in **1955**, when Japanese cloth imports outsold American products, the U.S. compelled Japan to agree to a **voluntary export restriction**, capping Japan's share of the U.S. market.
उदाहरण के लिए, **1955** में जब जापानी कपड़े की आयात बिक्री अमेरिकी उत्पादों से अधिक थी, तब अमेरिका ने जापान को **स्वैच्छिक निर्यात प्रतिबंध** पर सहमति देने के लिए मजबूर किया, जिसने जापान के अमेरिकी बाजार में हिस्से को सीमित कर दिया।
- The U.S. also nurtured **openness** within the rules-based order, allowing Asian and Latin American economies to assert themselves periodically, introducing system flexibility.
अमेरिका ने नियम-आधारित व्यवस्था में **खुलापन** बनाए रखा, जिससे एशियाई और लैटिन अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ समय-समय पर अपनी जगह बना सकीं, जिससे व्यवस्था में आवश्यक **लचीलापन** आया।
- Examples of such openness include:
ऐसे खुलेपन के उदाहरणों में शामिल हैं:
 - U.S. and developed nations encouraging developing countries to join the **United Nations** institutions.
अमेरिका और विकसित देशों द्वारा विकासशील देशों को **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** की संस्थाओं में शामिल होने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना।
 - **Getting China to join the WTO in 2001 after delays due to concerns about Beijing's human rights violations.**
चीन को **2001** में **WTO** में शामिल करना, जो बीजिंग के मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों को लेकर चिंताओं के कारण देरी से हुआ।
 - **Supporting Japan's entry to the G-7 in 1973.**
1973 में जापान के **G-7** में प्रवेश का समर्थन।
 - **Backing the entry of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Saudi Arabia into the G20.**
चीन, भारत, इंडोनेशिया, जापान, और सऊदी अरब के **G20** में प्रवेश का समर्थन।
 - Establishing the **UN Millennium Development Goals** to support financing industrialization in emerging economies.
उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में औद्योगिकीकरण के वित्तपोषण के लिए **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्य** की स्थापना।
 - **Providing structural adjustment loans from the IMF**, which acted as a financial lifeline but also forced opening of markets benefiting U.S. trade policy.
IMF द्वारा दिए गए **संरचनात्मक समायोजन ऋण**, जो आर्थिक सहारा थे, लेकिन साथ ही बाजारों को खोलने के लिए मजबूर करते थे जिससे अमेरिकी व्यापार नीति को लाभ होता था।



The Extent of U.S.' Power

अमेरिका की शक्ति की सीमा

- There is no denying that the **rules-based international order** is far from an authoritarian hierarchy of forced policy prescriptions and expected political subservience of so-called subordinate Asian nations.
यह स्वीकार करना मुश्किल है कि **नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था** किसी सत्तावादी पदानुक्रम से बहुत दूर है जहाँ नीतियों को जबरदस्ती लागू किया जाता हो और तथाकथित अधीनस्थ एशियाई देशों से राजनीतिक आज्ञापालन की उम्मीद की जाती हो।
- **Yet, it is fair to ask whether such a warped balance of power in favour of the U.S. could ever emerge, given the Asian trajectory of rapid economic growth built on global trading and capital systems, the collective social emancipation of people, the propagation of individual and institutional liberty, and the growing state capacity for meaningful regional action and collaboration.**
फिर भी, यह पूछना उचित है कि क्या **यू.एस. के पक्ष में विकृत शक्ति संतुलन** कभी उभर सकता है, खासकर एशिया की तेज़ आर्थिक वृद्धि, वैश्विक व्यापार और पूंजी प्रणालियों पर आधारित, लोगों की सामूहिक सामाजिक मुक्ति, व्यक्तिगत और संस्थागत स्वतंत्रता के प्रसार, और क्षेत्रीय कार्रवाई और सहयोग के लिए राज्य की बढ़ती क्षमता को देखते हुए।
- If the sense of agency and autonomous power of Asian nation-states is overlooked, then it leads to a false sense of U.S. munificence in “bestowing” openness and flexibility upon the rules-based order.
यदि एशियाई राष्ट्र-राज्यों की स्वायत्त शक्ति और एजेंसी की भावना को नजरअंदाज किया जाए, तो यह **यू.एस. की उदारता** के एक झूठे भाव को जन्म देता है जो नियम-आधारित व्यवस्था को खुलापन और लचीलापन प्रदान करता है।
- In reality, the U.S., for all its economic heft and technological prowess had no choice but to find its own place within this complex matrix of competing nations worldwide, each strong in specific economic sectors, but perhaps less so in other areas.
वास्तव में, अपने आर्थिक बल और तकनीकी कौशल के बावजूद, यू.एस. के पास विश्व के प्रतिस्पर्धी राष्ट्रों के इस जटिल ताने-बाने में अपनी जगह ढूंढने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं था, जहाँ हर राष्ट्र कुछ आर्थिक क्षेत्रों में मजबूत है, लेकिन अन्य क्षेत्रों में शायद कम।
- Within this more reasoned paradigm of the global political economy, which neither denies the **unipolarity** of the present moment nor overstates the U.S.'s ability to impose its hegemonic ambitions on other nations in today's multi-alliance, interconnected and interdependent framework of international engagement, it becomes clear that damage done to the rules-based liberal international order under the second Trump administration will transform the order to the point of it resembling a new order entirely.
इस अधिक तर्कसंगत वैश्विक राजनीतिक अर्थव्यवस्था के परिदृश्य में, जो वर्तमान के **एकध्रुवीय** स्वरूप को न तो नकारता है और न ही यू.एस. की अन्य राष्ट्रों पर प्रभुत्व की महत्वाकांक्षाओं को थोपने की क्षमता को बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर बताता है, यह स्पष्ट होता है कि दूसरे ट्रंप प्रशासन के तहत नियम-आधारित उदार अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था को हुए नुकसान से यह पूरी तरह से एक नई व्यवस्था के रूप में बदल जाएगी।
- Ironically, at the heart of this act of reshaping the rules-based liberal international order, are not so much the consequences of what the U.S. is inflicting upon Asian nations but rather its abrupt pulling of the rug from under the heels of Europe by undermining the ideological cause and financial prospects of NATO and leaving the continent exposed to the risk of ever-increasing depredations of Russia.
विडंबना यह है कि नियम-आधारित उदार अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था को पुनः आकार देने के इस कार्य के केंद्र में इतना अमेरिका द्वारा



एशियाई देशों पर डाले गए प्रभाव नहीं हैं, जितना कि उसने नाटो के वैचारिक उद्देश्य और वित्तीय संभावनाओं को कमजोर करके यूरोप के पाँव तले से जमीन खिसकाई है, जिससे यूरोपीय महाद्वीप रूस के बढ़ते हमलों के जोखिम के प्रति असुरक्षित हो गया है।

- Similarly, the resoluteness with which Mr. Trump has tied his administration to the whims and fancies of the genocidal and warmongering causes of Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu will rewrite the playbook for everyone.

इसी तरह, जिस दृढ़ता से श्री ट्रंप ने अपनी सरकार को इजराइल के बेन्यामिन नेतन्याहू के नरसंहारकारी और युद्धप्रिय उद्देश्यों से जोड़ा है, वह सभी के लिए नया खेल-निर्देशिका लिखेगा।

- This will impact the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, rethinking regional political dynamics, as much as it will aspiring college students from India seeking admissions in countries other than the U.S. in the wake of compulsory social media scrutiny as a condition of visa issuance.

इसका प्रभाव सऊदी अरब और तुर्की के शासकों पर पड़ेगा, क्षेत्रीय राजनीतिक गतिशीलता पर पुनर्विचार होगा, उतना ही जितना भारत के उन कॉलेज छात्रों पर होगा जो वीजा जारी करने की शर्त के रूप में अनिवार्य सोशल मीडिया जांच के कारण यू.एस. के अलावा अन्य देशों में दाखिला लेने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

A New Order

नई व्यवस्था

- **Yes, the silhouettes of the old rules-based liberal international order will continue to fall upon the new arrangements** that the world will find itself forced to confront by the end of the second Trump term.

हाँ, पुराने नियम-आधारित उदार अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था की परछाइयाँ उस नई व्यवस्था पर बनी रहेंगी, जिसका सामना दुनिया को दूसरे ट्रंप कार्यकाल के अंत तक करना होगा।

- However, there can be no denying that it will indeed be a new order built on the rise of bilateral agreements in place of broader regional ones.

फिर भी, यह स्वीकार करना होगा कि यह सचमुच एक नई व्यवस्था होगी जो व्यापक क्षेत्रीय समझौतों के स्थान पर द्विपक्षीय समझौतों के उदय पर आधारित होगी।

- The newer order will feature the widespread use of economic sanctions to penalise political opponents across the globe in contravention of WTO norms; ever-growing skirmishes and limited wars; a reliance on drones and AI to settle territorial and other disputes; as well as a steady, catastrophic dismembering of global institutions fostering cooperation, reducing transaction costs and speaking up for human rights and standards of international engagement more broadly.

नई व्यवस्था में विश्व व्यापी राजनीतिक विरोधियों को सजा देने के लिए आर्थिक प्रतिबंधों का व्यापक उपयोग होगा, जो WTO के नियमों का उल्लंघन होगा; बढ़ती झड़पें और सीमित युद्ध होंगे; क्षेत्रीय और अन्य विवादों को सुलझाने के लिए ड्रोन और एआई पर निर्भरता होगी; साथ ही वैश्विक संस्थानों का निरंतर, विनाशकारी विघटन होगा जो सहयोग को बढ़ावा देते हैं, लेन-देन की लागत को कम करते हैं और मानवाधिकारों व अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहभागिता के मानकों के लिए आवाज उठाते हैं।

- Pax Americana may well give rise to the next phase of its own evolution, Flux Americana.

पैक्स अमेरिकाना संभवतः अपनी अगली विकास अवस्था, फ्लक्स अमेरिकाना को जन्म देगा।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Polity, Governance, And International Relations)



1.SC refuses to hear Baghel's plea against PMLA provision
पीएमएलए प्रावधान के खिलाफ बघेल की याचिका सुनने से सुप्रीम कोर्ट का
इनकार

2.RS returns Manipur Budget Bill in absence of Opposition
विपक्ष की अनुपस्थिति में राज्यसभा ने मणिपुर बजट विधेयक लौटाया

**3. Landmark study offers new insights into what protects
against dengue**

डेंगू से बचाव में क्या मदद करता है, इस पर नया दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करने
वाला महत्वपूर्ण अध्ययन

**4. Peacock feathers can behave like small lasers,
researchers say**

मोर के पंख छोटे लेज़र की तरह व्यवहार कर सकते हैं, शोधकर्ताओं का
कहना है

5. Assuaging concerns

चिंताओं को दूर करना

**6. The airline industry's best kept dirty secret: sustainable
jet-fuel failures**

एयरलाइन उद्योग का सबसे छुपा हुआ गंदा राज़: टिकाऊ जेट-ईंधन की
असफलताएँ



Golden crest



Scattered light: Clouds creating a **kaleidoscope of colours** in the evening sky over Visakhapatnam on Monday. The visual effect is caused by the **scattering of light through varying cloud densities and atmospheric particles.** K R DEEPAK

PATRIOTIC



SC refuses to hear Baghel's plea against PMLA provision

GS III: ML

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the “devil is not in the law” but “in the abuse” of the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as it refused to examine former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's plea challenging the PMLA provision empowering the ED to file supplementary chargesheets in money laundering cases.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi refused to examine the constitutional validity of Section 44 of the PMLA, which empowers Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials to file supplementary chargesheet and said the embargo cannot be put on unravelling evidences in the pursuit of truth.

Justice Bagchi told Additional Solicitor General S.V.

Raju, appearing for the ED, that further investigation was not envisaged in 1898 in the original form of code of criminal procedure but in 1973 to overcome the vice of interim police report.

‘Devil not in the law’

“The devil is not in the law. The difficulty is in the abuse. The amendment in the new code (1973) carried over to the BNSS, the requirement of judicial oversight is coming because 173 (8) CrPC was brought to ensure that investigation concludes in a final report or a police report. This interim police report was never envisaged. In order to avoid the vice of interim police report 173 (8) of CrPC was brought in. Now, what is happening is that it is not blocking the vice. This is the abuse which has to be seen,” Justice Bagchi told Mr. Raju.

evidences in the pursuit of truth.

न्यायमूर्ति सूर्या कांत और जॉयमाल्य बागची की पीठ ने पीएमएलए की धारा 44 की संवैधानिक वैधता की जांच से इनकार कर दिया, जो प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ईडी) के अधिकारियों को पूरक आरोपपत्र दाखिल करने का अधिकार देती है, और कहा कि सच्चाई की तलाश में सबूतों को उजागर करने पर रोक नहीं लगाई जा सकती।

- Justice Bagchi told Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the ED, that further investigation was not envisaged in 1898 in the original form of code of criminal procedure but in 1973 to overcome the vice of interim police report.

न्यायमूर्ति बागची ने ईडी की ओर से पेश अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल एस.वी. राजू से कहा कि

SC refuses to hear Baghel's plea against PMLA provision

पीएमएलए प्रावधान के खिलाफ बघेल की याचिका सुनने से सुप्रीम कोर्ट का इनकार

- The Supreme Court on Monday said the “devil is not in the law” but “in the abuse” of the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as it refused to examine former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's plea challenging the PMLA provision empowering the ED to file supplementary chargesheets in money laundering cases.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को कहा कि “शैतान कानून में नहीं है” बल्कि “दुरुपयोग में” है, जब उसने पूर्व छत्तीसगढ़ मुख्यमंत्री भूपेश बघेल की उस याचिका की सुनवाई से इनकार कर दिया जिसमें मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग रोकथाम अधिनियम (PMLA) के उस प्रावधान को चुनौती दी गई थी जो ईडी को मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग मामलों में पूरक आरोपपत्र दाखिल करने का अधिकार देता है।

- A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi refused to examine the constitutional validity of Section 44 of the PMLA, which empowers Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials to file supplementary chargesheet and said the embargo cannot be put on unravelling



आगे की जांच का प्रावधान 1898 में मूल आपराधिक प्रक्रिया संहिता में नहीं था, बल्कि 1973 में अस्थायी पुलिस रिपोर्ट की खामी को दूर करने के लिए जोड़ा गया था।

‘Devil not in the law’

‘शैतान कानून में नहीं’

- “The devil is not in the law. The difficulty is in the abuse. The amendment in the new code (1973) carried over to the **BNSS**, the requirement of judicial oversight is coming because **173(8) CrPC** was brought to ensure that investigation concludes in a final report or a police report. This interim police report was never envisaged. In order to avoid the vice of interim police report **173(8)** of **CrPC** was brought in. Now, what is happening is that it is not blocking the vice. This is the abuse which has to be seen,” Justice **Bagchi** told Mr. **Raju**.

“शैतान कानून में नहीं है। कठिनाई दुरुपयोग में है। नए संहिता (1973) में संशोधन **BNSS** में लाया गया, न्यायिक निगरानी की आवश्यकता इसलिए आई क्योंकि **दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता (CrPC)** की धारा **173(8)** को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए लाया गया कि जांच अंतिम रिपोर्ट या पुलिस रिपोर्ट के साथ पूरी हो। यह अस्थायी पुलिस रिपोर्ट कभी नहीं सोची गई थी। अस्थायी पुलिस रिपोर्ट की खामी से बचने के लिए धारा **173(8) CrPC** लाई गई। अब जो हो रहा है वह यह है कि यह खामी को रोक नहीं रही है। यह वह दुरुपयोग है जिसे देखना होगा,” न्यायमूर्ति **बागची** ने श्री **राजू** से कहा।

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

- The **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002** is a key legislation in India aimed at preventing and controlling money laundering, confiscating property derived from money laundering, and punishing those engaged in such activities.
- The Act came into force on **1st July 2005** to fulfil India’s international obligations, particularly under the **UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)** and recommendations of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.

Objective of PMLA

- To prevent and control the offence of money laundering.
- To confiscate and seize property obtained from laundered money.
- To deal with any other issues connected with money laundering in India.

Key Concepts

Money Laundering

- Refers to the process of making illegally-gained proceeds (dirty money) appear legal (clean money).
- Involves three stages:
 - **Placement**: Introducing illicit funds into the financial system.
 - **Layering**: Concealing the source through complex transactions.
 - **Integration**: Reintroducing laundered money into the economy as legitimate funds.

Scheduled Offences

- PMLA is triggered only when the predicate offence (scheduled offence) listed in its schedule is committed.
- The schedule includes offences under:
 - Indian Penal Code (IPC)
 - Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS)
 - Prevention of Corruption Act



- Arms Act, Wildlife Protection Act, etc.

Enforcement Mechanism

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- The ED is the primary agency for investigating offences under PMLA.
- Powers include:
 - **Search and seizure** of property.
 - **Arrest** of persons involved.
 - **Attachment** of property derived from money laundering.

Adjudicating Authority

- Appointed by the Central Government to decide whether the property attached is involved in money laundering.

Appellate Tribunal

- Hears appeals against the orders of the Adjudicating Authority.

Special Courts

- Designated under PMLA to conduct trials for offences of money laundering.

Punishment under PMLA

- Rigorous imprisonment of **3 to 7 years** (up to **10 years** for offences under NDPS Act).
- Fine (no maximum limit prescribed).

Recent Updates

- Amendments in 2019 expanded the scope of the definition of money laundering and widened the list of scheduled offences.
- ED now has more powers for search, seizure, and arrest without prior FIR if a scheduled offence exists.
- Clarification that money laundering is a **continuing offence** until the proceeds of crime are enjoyed.
- Supreme Court in **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India (2022)** upheld the constitutional validity of key PMLA provisions, including ED's powers of arrest and attachment.

PATRIOTIC IAS



Rift between two blocs continues in Geneva Plastics Treaty negotiations

While one group of countries bats for production cuts to reduce pollution, the other group says the issue can be addressed through waste management; the plastics manufacturing industry has moved from Europe to South and Southeast Asia

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy

GENEVA

The deadlock between two blocs of countries on the best way to contain plastic pollution mirrors a shift in the global plastic and polymer-manufacturing industry, which in recent years has moved out of Europe and drifted towards South and Southeast Asia.

Since 2022, the United Nations Environment Programme has been spearheading efforts to get countries to evolve, by consensus, a legally binding treaty that commits them to address plastic pollution on land as well as in oceans.

However, two broad coalitions have evolved over four sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution here – the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) chaired by Norway and Rwanda, consisting of nearly 80 countries, including members of the European Union (EU), and the Like Minded Countries



No consensus: Two coalitions have evolved over four sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva. AP

(LMC), which includes Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, China and Cuba. While the latter is not a formal coalition like the HAC, it is a much smaller group of countries whose interests are aligned because they are all major petrochemical states.

India on Saturday had expressed solidarity with the LMC. Under the current rules of negotiation, countries cannot pass a proposal by a majority vote, and near-unanimous agreement is required.

The fundamental rift

between the two is that the HAC says plastic pollution cannot be contained without imposing cuts or capping production of plastic and its constituent, polymer. The LMC says plastic pollution can be addressed through waste management, and imposing production cuts would only cause disruptions in trade, rather than a meaningful reduction in plastic production and use.

An analysis in July by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) tracking

the flows of the main chemical constituents of plastic – ethylene, propylene, styrene and their derivatives polypropylene, low-density polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, high-density polyethylene and polyethylene terephthalate – showed that Asia dominated the global trade in primary plastic polymers, with 11 exporting and 18 importing countries.

Divergent stance

In North America, the United States was the largest exporter of these primary plastic polymers, while several European countries served as both importers and exporters. Trade volumes in Africa and South America were negligible. This year, the United States, which is part of neither coalition but had always pitched for a “strong treaty”, said it would not support any proposals for production cuts.

India’s support for the LMC echoes in a submission made by the All India

Plastic Manufacturers Association, an industry lobby, to the Chair of the INC 5.2, Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, on August 5. “We believe that any cap on the production of primary polymers will do more harm than good as its growing needs in a multitude of areas cannot be met with other materials in the quantities needed,” says the submission.

“We ask that the INC focus on helping countries increase their waste management capabilities... and build programmes for behavioural change to eradicate littering.” Independent observers said that the business case for petroleum and polymer refining in major economies was “weak”. “Look at China for instance. Its petrochemical refining is working at 50% capacity. Several major refiners the world over are seeing that margins and demands for polymer products are declining,” said David Azoulay, managing attorney, Center for International Environmental Law, at a seminar.

RS returns Manipur Budget Bill in absence of Opposition

विपक्ष की अनुपस्थिति में राज्यसभा ने मणिपुर बजट विधेयक लौटाया

- The Rajya Sabha discussed and returned to the Lower House the Budget and Appropriation Bills of Manipur, and the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill on Monday, in the absence of members from Opposition parties.
- राज्यसभा ने सोमवार को विपक्षी दलों के सदस्यों की अनुपस्थिति में मणिपुर के बजट और अनुदान विधेयक तथा गोवा राज्य में विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अनुसूचित जनजातियों के प्रतिनिधित्व के पुनः समायोजन से संबंधित विधेयक पर चर्चा की और उन्हें लोकसभा को लौटा दिया।
- Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, questioned the Union government for holding a debate while Opposition members were away to protest in front of the Election Commission against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar and alleged discrepancies in the voter lists in several other States.
- राज्यसभा में विपक्ष के नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने केंद्र सरकार से सवाल किया कि जब विपक्षी सदस्य बिहार में विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR) और कई अन्य राज्यों में मतदाता सूची में कथित गड़बड़ियों के खिलाफ चुनाव आयोग के सामने प्रदर्शन कर रहे थे, तब बहस क्यों कराई गई।



- The **Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill** provides reservation to **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in the **Goa Assembly**. The Bill was passed by a **voice vote**.
 - गोवा राज्य में विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अनुसूचित जनजातियों के प्रतिनिधित्व के पुनः समायोजन से संबंधित विधेयक गोवा विधानसभा में अनुसूचित जनजातियों (STs) को आरक्षण प्रदान करता है। यह विधेयक **स्वर मतदान** से पारित किया गया।
- The **Upper House** returned the **Manipur budget**, the **Manipur Appropriation Bill**, and the **Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill**, too, during the day, without a **brief discussion**, in the absence of the **Opposition**. **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** said both Bills were very critical for **Manipur**, and asked the Opposition to participate in the discussion.
 - उच्च सदन ने दिन में, विपक्ष की अनुपस्थिति में, बिना संक्षिप्त चर्चा के मणिपुर बजट, मणिपुर अनुदान विधेयक, और मणिपुर वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (संशोधन) विधेयक भी लौटा दिए। केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि दोनों विधेयक मणिपुर के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और विपक्ष से चर्चा में भाग लेने का आग्रह किया।
- **Mr. Kharge**, meanwhile, questioned how the Bills were being passed in a **din**. "...The House should be in order to have a discussion... This is a **betrayal of democracy**," he said. **Leader of the House** and **Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda** said **democracy** should be protected, but the **House** "cannot be held hostage".
 - इसी बीच श्री खड़गे ने सवाल किया कि शोर-शराबे के बीच विधेयक कैसे पारित हो रहे हैं। "...चर्चा के लिए सदन सुव्यवस्थित होना चाहिए... यह लोकतंत्र के साथ विश्वासघात है," उन्होंने कहा। सदन के नेता और केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा ने कहा कि लोकतंत्र की रक्षा होनी चाहिए, लेकिन सदन को "बंधक नहीं बनाया जा सकता"।



Landmark study offers new insights into what protects against dengue

Developing a universal vaccine is challenging due to the complex immune mechanisms; in dengue virus cases, the initial immunity after the first infection increases the risk of severe disease, rather than conferring protection, when a person is infected a second time with a different serotype

GS III: S&T

Puneet Kumar

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The specific components of the immune response in a human body that protect against a dengue virus (DENV) infection and the subsequent illness remain unclear. Scientists are still trying to understand how natural infection and vaccination protect people so that they can develop better vaccines.

Now, a novel study has revealed important insights into developing strong immunity against DENV, which is otherwise quite complex. Researchers from the US and the Philippines have identified specific antibodies, known as envelope dimer epitope (EDE)-like antibodies, as the key for building broad, cross-serotype immunity following natural infection or vaccination.

The findings, published recently in *Science Translational Medicine*, represent a significant step forward in understanding dengue immunity and could lead to more effective therapeutics.

Disease burden and dengue vaccines

Dengue is a major global health challenge caused by any of four DENV serotypes (DENV1 to DENV4). It is the most common vector-borne viral disease, with half of the world's population at risk, especially in Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Americas. According to one large study in 2013, the economic burden of dengue in Southeast Asia is higher than that of 17 other conditions, including Japanese encephalitis, upper respiratory infections, and hepatitis B.

And yet developing a universally effective vaccine has proven difficult thanks to the complex immune mechanisms involved. In DENV cases, the initial immunity after the first infection (a.k.a. primary immunity) paradoxically increases the risk of severe disease rather than conferring protection when a person is infected a second time with a different serotype of the virus. This phenomenon, called antibody-dependent enhancement, occurs when non-neutralising antibodies bind to partially immature virus particles, facilitating their entry into immune cells and worsening the infection. All severe dengue cases requiring hospitalisation result from such second infections.

Since vaccines mimic natural infections, the risk of antibody-dependent enhancement after the first dose is the main challenge for dengue vaccines, which is why they are usually recommended only for individuals with prior exposure to the virus and avoided in dengue-naïve people.

After exposure to at least two different DENV serotypes, a person develops true protection, known as "secondary immunity," against future disease.

Currently, two primary dengue vaccines are licensed (in some countries): Dengvaxia and QDenga. These shots are most effective for individuals who have already been exposed to dengue at least once before vaccination. Laboratory confirmation of a previous dengue infection is required for vaccination with Dengvaxia.

Outbreak in Cebu

DENV is an enveloped virus, meaning it has a protective outer layer. A key component of this layer is the envelope



EDE-like antibodies had limited effects against viral replication. They were more protective against severe disease. G. RAMAKRISHNA

(E) protein, which is the primary target for the body's immune response.

The E protein is arranged in pairs on the virus surface, creating complex three-dimensional structures known as quaternary epitopes. EDE is a critical quaternary epitope and an important target for vaccines and therapeutic antibodies.

In June 2017, Cebu province in the Philippines offered at least the first dose of a dengue vaccine to children aged 9-14 years. For the new study, the researchers recruited and followed a cohort of 2,996 such children. Of them, 1,782 received the first dose of the vaccine, and the rest remained unvaccinated. The researchers collected baseline blood samples one month before the vaccination campaign and follow-up samples 17-28 months after the campaign.

There had been an unusually large dengue outbreak in Cebu between the baseline and follow-up sample collection, with most cases caused by DENV2 (61.7%), followed by DENV3 (30%). The researchers measured different kinds of antibodies in the samples: EDE-like antibodies (targeting envelope dimer epitopes); neutralising antibodies (which can block infection by mature, fully formed viruses); and binding antibodies (those that attach to parts of the E protein without necessarily blocking infection).

The study focused on the children who had had evidence of at least two prior DENV infections (those with "secondary immunity") at the baseline. They followed up with the cohort up to October 31, 2022, to check how many with secondary immunity went on to develop dengue between the follow-up sample collection and the study closure date. All the samples were analysed in vaccinated and unvaccinated children in this subgroup in an attempt to reveal the true predictors of protection.

More protective against disease

The study's findings illuminated the role of EDE-like antibodies in the protective response.

Specifically, the researchers found that

EDE-like antibodies explained 42% to 65% of the protective effect of virus-neutralising antibodies and 41% to 75% of the effect of E protein-binding antibodies. This suggests that EDE-like antibodies are a primary, underlying determinant of broad, cross-reactive immunity against dengue

EDE-like antibodies were highly prevalent in children with secondary DENV immunity, with 81.8% to 90.1% of participants having detectable levels. This was in stark contrast to individuals with only primary DENV immunity, where EDE-like antibodies were largely absent (detected in only 4% to 12% of cases). This suggests EDE-like antibodies are a hallmark of established immunity against dengue. The magnitude of EDE-like antibodies was also strongly and consistently correlated with broad neutralisation of all four mature DENV serotypes, indicating that these antibodies are crucial for widespread protection rather than just against a single serotype.

The study observed that both natural DENV infection – due to the large outbreak during the study period – and vaccination significantly boosted EDE-like antibodies as well as general DENV-binding and neutralising antibodies. This effect was evident even in children who already possessed strong secondary immunity.

Crucially, higher levels of EDE-like antibodies were consistently associated with lower odds of symptomatic dengue, dengue with warning signs, and dengue requiring hospitalisation. This protective effect was observed across multiple serotypes, demonstrating both serotype-specific and cross-reactive benefits. However, EDE-like antibodies had limited protective effects against viral replication. Thus, they were less protective against new infections but more protective against disease,

especially severe disease.

Perhaps the most significant finding was that EDE-like antibodies didn't just correlate with protection: they statistically explained a substantial portion of the protective effect seen with other mature virus-neutralising and E-binding antibodies. That is, when EDE-like antibodies were factored into statistical models, the protective effect of other antibodies was significantly diminished, while EDE-like antibodies remained strongly associated with protection.

Specifically, EDE-like antibodies explained 42% to 65% of the protective effect attributed to mature virus-neutralising antibodies and 41% to 75% of the effect of general E protein-binding antibodies. This observation strongly suggested that EDE-like antibodies are a primary, underlying determinant of broad, cross-reactive immunity against dengue.

Limitations and the future

Although the study had some limitations, such as a relatively small number of dengue cases for assessing protection against all four serotypes and a limited panel of monoclonal antibodies used for characterisation, it nonetheless marked a significant advance in the fight against dengue. The team provided a clearer understanding of the immune responses that truly protect against this debilitating disease. EDE-like antibodies also helped explain how neutralising and binding antibodies contributed to protection.

Further research will be essential to formally validate EDE-like antibodies as reliable indicators of protection for vaccine efficacy trials. If this is validated, researchers will be able to design vaccines that specifically elicit high levels of EDE-like antibodies and thus better protect against dengue.

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Landmark study offers new insights into what protects against dengue

डेंगू से बचाव में क्या मदद करता है, इस पर नया दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करने वाला महत्वपूर्ण अध्ययन

- Developing a **universal vaccine** is challenging due to the **complex immune mechanisms**.
- सार्वभौमिक वैक्सीन विकसित करना जटिल प्रतिरक्षा तंत्र के कारण चुनौतीपूर्ण है।
- In **dengue virus** cases, the initial immunity after the **first infection** increases the risk of **severe disease**, rather than conferring protection.
- डेंगू वायरस के मामलों में, पहले संक्रमण के बाद की प्रारंभिक प्रतिरक्षा, सुरक्षा देने के बजाय गंभीर बीमारी का खतरा बढ़ा देती है।
- This happens when a person is **infected a second time with a different serotype**.
- ऐसा तब होता है जब व्यक्ति को दूसरी बार किसी अलग सीरोटाइप से संक्रमण होता है।

Specific components of the immune response in dengue

डेंगू में प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया के विशिष्ट घटक

- The specific components of the immune response in a human body that protect against a **dengue virus (DENV) infection** and the subsequent illness remain unclear. मानव शरीर में डेंगू वायरस (DENV) संक्रमण और उसके बाद होने वाली बीमारी से बचाने वाले प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया के विशिष्ट घटक अभी भी स्पष्ट नहीं हैं।
- Scientists are still trying to understand how natural infection and vaccination protect people so that they can develop better vaccines. वैज्ञानिक अभी भी यह समझने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि प्राकृतिक संक्रमण और टीकाकरण कैसे लोगों की रक्षा करते हैं, ताकि वे बेहतर टीके विकसित कर सकें।
- A novel study has revealed important insights into developing strong immunity against DENV, which is otherwise quite complex. एक नवीन अध्ययन ने DENV के खिलाफ मजबूत प्रतिरक्षा विकसित करने में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी उजागर की है, जो अन्यथा काफी जटिल है।
- Researchers from the US and the Philippines have identified **specific antibodies, known as envelope dimer epitope (EDE)-like antibodies**, as the key for building broad, cross-serotype immunity following natural infection or vaccination. अमेरिका और फिलीपींस के शोधकर्ताओं ने एन्वेलप डाइमर एपिटोप (EDE)-सदृश एंटीबॉडीज को व्यापक, क्रॉस-सीरोटाइप प्रतिरक्षा बनाने की कुंजी के रूप में पहचाना है।
- The findings, published recently in **Science Translational Medicine**, represent a significant step forward in understanding dengue immunity and could lead to more effective therapeutics. साइंस ट्रांसलेशनल मेडिसिन में हाल ही में प्रकाशित निष्कर्ष डेंगू प्रतिरक्षा को समझने में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है और यह अधिक प्रभावी उपचारों की ओर ले जा सकते हैं।

Disease burden and dengue vaccines

रोग का बोझ और डेंगू टीके



- Dengue is a major global health challenge caused by any of four DENV serotypes (DENV1 to DENV4).
डेंगू चार DENV सीरोटाइप (DENV1 से DENV4) में से किसी एक से होने वाली एक प्रमुख वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य चुनौती है।
- It is the most common **vector-borne viral disease**, with **half of the world's population** at risk, especially in **Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Americas**.
यह सबसे आम वाहक-जनित वायरल बीमारी है, जिसमें **दुनिया की आधी आबादी** खतरे में है, खासकर **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया, अफ्रीका और अमेरिका** में।
- According to one large study in **2013**, the economic burden of dengue in Southeast Asia is higher than that of **17 other conditions**, including **Japanese encephalitis, upper respiratory infections, and hepatitis B**.
2013 के एक बड़े अध्ययन के अनुसार, दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में डेंगू का आर्थिक बोझ **17 अन्य बीमारियों** से अधिक है, जिनमें जापानी एन्सेफलाइटिस, ऊपरी श्वसन संक्रमण और हेपेटाइटिस बी शामिल हैं।
- Developing a universally effective vaccine has proven difficult due to complex immune mechanisms.
जटिल प्रतिरक्षा तंत्र के कारण सार्वभौमिक रूप से प्रभावी टीका विकसित करना कठिन साबित हुआ है।
- In DENV cases, **primary immunity** after the first infection paradoxically increases the risk of severe disease during a second infection with a different serotype.
DENV मामलों में, पहली संक्रमण के बाद की **प्राथमिक प्रतिरक्षा** दूसरी बार अलग सीरोटाइप से संक्रमण होने पर गंभीर बीमारी के जोखिम को बढ़ा देती है।
- This phenomenon, called **antibody-dependent enhancement**, happens when non-neutralising antibodies bind to partially immature virus particles, helping them enter immune cells and worsening infection.
इस घटना को **एंटीबॉडी-निर्भर वृद्धि** कहा जाता है, जो तब होती है जब गैर-न्यूट्रलाइजिंग एंटीबॉडी आंशिक रूप से अपरिपक्व वायरस कणों से जुड़कर उन्हें प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाओं में प्रवेश करने में मदद करती हैं और संक्रमण को बढ़ा देती हैं।
- All severe dengue cases requiring hospitalisation result from such second infections.
सभी गंभीर डेंगू मामले जिनमें अस्पताल में भर्ती की आवश्यकता होती है, ऐसे दूसरे संक्रमणों से उत्पन्न होते हैं।
- **Since vaccines mimic natural infections, the risk of antibody-dependent enhancement after the first dose is the main challenge for dengue vaccines.**
चूंकि टीके प्राकृतिक संक्रमण की नकल करते हैं, इसलिए पहली खुराक के बाद **एंटीबॉडी-निर्भर वृद्धि** का जोखिम डेंगू टीकों की मुख्य चुनौती है।
- **For this reason, vaccines are usually recommended only for people with prior exposure to the virus and avoided in dengue-naïve individuals.**
इस कारण, टीके आमतौर पर केवल उन लोगों के लिए अनुशंसित होते हैं जिन्हें पहले वायरस का संपर्क हो चुका हो, और **डेंगू-नवागंतुक** व्यक्तियों में इससे बचा जाता है।
- After exposure to at least two different DENV serotypes, a person develops **secondary immunity** against future disease.
कम से कम दो अलग-अलग DENV सीरोटाइप के संपर्क के बाद व्यक्ति भविष्य की बीमारी के खिलाफ **द्वितीयक प्रतिरक्षा** विकसित करता है।
- Currently, two primary dengue vaccines are licensed in some countries: **Dengvaxia** and **QDenga**.



वर्तमान में, कुछ देशों में दो प्राथमिक डेंगू टीकों को लाइसेंस प्राप्त है: **Dengvaxia** और

QDENGAI

- These vaccines are most effective for individuals who have been exposed to dengue at least once before vaccination.

ये टीके उन व्यक्तियों के लिए सबसे प्रभावी हैं जिन्हें टीकाकरण से पहले कम से कम एक बार डेंगू का संपर्क हो चुका हो।

- Laboratory confirmation of a previous dengue infection is required for **Dengvaxia** vaccination.

Dengvaxia से टीकाकरण के लिए पिछले डेंगू संक्रमण की प्रयोगशाला पुष्टि आवश्यक है।

Outbreak in Cebu

सेबू में प्रकोप

- **DENV** is an enveloped virus, meaning it has a protective outer layer. A key component of this layer is the **envelope (E) protein**, which is the primary target for the body's immune response.

DENV एक आवरणयुक्त वायरस है, जिसका मतलब है कि इसमें एक सुरक्षात्मक बाहरी परत होती है। इस परत का एक प्रमुख घटक **एन्वेलप (E) प्रोटीन** है, जो शरीर की प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया का मुख्य लक्ष्य होता है।

- The **E protein** is arranged in pairs on the virus surface, creating complex three-dimensional structures known as **quaternary epitopes**. **EDE** is a critical quaternary epitope and an important target for vaccines and therapeutic antibodies.

E प्रोटीन वायरस की सतह पर जोड़ों में व्यवस्थित होता है, जिससे जटिल त्रि-आयामी संरचनाएँ बनती हैं जिन्हें **क्वाटरनेरी एपिटोप्स** कहा जाता है। **EDE** एक महत्वपूर्ण क्वाटरनेरी एपिटोप है और वैक्सीन व चिकित्सीय एंटीबॉडी का एक अहम लक्ष्य है।

- In **June 2017**, **Cebu province** in the Philippines offered at least the first dose of a dengue vaccine to children aged **9–14 years**. For the new study, the researchers recruited and followed a cohort of **2,996** such children. Of them, **1,782** received the first dose of the vaccine, and the rest remained unvaccinated.

जून 2017 में, फिलीपींस के **सेबू प्रांत** में **9–14 वर्ष** के बच्चों को कम से कम डेंगू वैक्सीन की पहली खुराक दी गई। नए अध्ययन के लिए, शोधकर्ताओं ने ऐसे **2,996** बच्चों का एक समूह शामिल किया और उन पर नज़र रखी। इनमें से **1,782** को वैक्सीन की पहली खुराक दी गई और बाकी बिना वैक्सीन के रहे।

- The researchers collected baseline blood samples one month before the vaccination campaign and follow-up samples **17–28 months** after the campaign.

शोधकर्ताओं ने वैक्सीनेशन अभियान से एक माह पहले आधारभूत रक्त के नमूने और अभियान के **17–28 माह** बाद अनुवर्ती नमूने एकत्र किए।

- There had been an unusually large dengue outbreak in Cebu between the baseline and follow-up sample collection, with most cases caused by **DENV2 (61.7%)**, followed by **DENV3 (30%)**.

आधारभूत और अनुवर्ती नमूनों के संग्रह के बीच सेबू में असामान्य रूप से बड़ा डेंगू प्रकोप हुआ, जिसमें अधिकांश मामले **DENV2 (61.7%)** के कारण और उसके बाद **DENV3 (30%)** के कारण थे।

- The researchers measured different kinds of antibodies in the samples: **EDE-like antibodies** (targeting envelope dimer epitopes); **neutralising antibodies** (which can block infection by mature, fully formed viruses); and **binding antibodies** (those that attach to parts of the E protein without necessarily blocking infection).



शोधकर्ताओं ने नमूनों में विभिन्न प्रकार की एंटीबॉडी मापी: **EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी** (एंवलप डाइमर एपिटोप को लक्ष्य करने वाली); **न्यूट्रलाइजिंग एंटीबॉडी** (जो परिपक्व और पूरी तरह बने वायरस से संक्रमण को रोक सकती हैं); और **बाइंडिंग एंटीबॉडी** (जो E प्रोटीन के हिस्सों से जुड़ती हैं लेकिन संक्रमण को रोकना आवश्यक नहीं है)।

- The study focused on the children who had had evidence of at least two prior DENV infections (**secondary immunity**) at the baseline. They followed up with the cohort up to **October 31, 2022**, to check how many with secondary immunity went on to develop dengue between the follow-up sample collection and the study closure date. अध्ययन ने उन बच्चों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जिनमें आधारभूत स्तर पर कम से कम दो पूर्व DENV संक्रमणों के प्रमाण थे (**द्वितीयक प्रतिरक्षा**)। उन्होंने **31 अक्टूबर 2022** तक समूह का अनुसरण किया ताकि यह देखा जा सके कि द्वितीयक प्रतिरक्षा वाले कितने बच्चों को अनुवर्ती नमूना संग्रह और अध्ययन की समाप्ति तिथि के बीच डेंगू हुआ।
- All the samples were analysed in vaccinated and unvaccinated children in this subgroup in an attempt to reveal the true predictors of protection. इस उपसमूह में सभी नमूनों का विश्लेषण वैक्सीन लगाए गए और बिना वैक्सीन वाले बच्चों में किया गया ताकि सुरक्षा के वास्तविक पूर्वानुमानक कारकों का पता लगाया जा सके।
- **EDE-like antibodies** were highly prevalent in children with secondary DENV immunity (**81.8%–90.1%**), but largely absent in primary immunity cases (**4%–12%**). **EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी** द्वितीयक DENV प्रतिरक्षा वाले बच्चों में अत्यधिक पाई गई (**81.8%–90.1%**), लेकिन प्राथमिक प्रतिरक्षा मामलों में काफी हद तक अनुपस्थित रही (**4%–12%**)।
- The magnitude of EDE-like antibodies was strongly correlated with **broad neutralisation** of all four mature DENV serotypes, showing their role in widespread protection. EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी की मात्रा का सभी चार परिपक्व DENV सीरोटाइप्स के व्यापक न्यूट्रलाइजेशन से गहरा संबंध था, जो व्यापक सुरक्षा में उनकी भूमिका को दर्शाता है।
- Both natural infection (during the outbreak) and vaccination significantly boosted EDE-like, general DENV-binding, and neutralising antibodies — even in children with strong secondary immunity. प्राकृतिक संक्रमण (प्रकोप के दौरान) और वैक्सीन दोनों ने EDE-जैसी, सामान्य DENV-बाइंडिंग और न्यूट्रलाइजिंग एंटीबॉडी में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि की — यहां तक कि मजबूत द्वितीयक प्रतिरक्षा वाले बच्चों में भी।
- Higher levels of EDE-like antibodies were associated with lower odds of **symptomatic dengue, dengue with warning signs, and hospitalisation**. EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी का उच्च स्तर **लक्षणयुक्त डेंगू, चेतावनी संकेतों वाला डेंगू, और अस्पताल में भर्ती होने** की संभावना को कम करने से जुड़ा था।
- EDE-like antibodies had **limited protection** against viral replication — less protection from new infections but stronger protection from severe disease. EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी में **वायरल प्रतिकृति** के खिलाफ सीमित सुरक्षा थी — नए संक्रमणों से कम सुरक्षा लेकिन गंभीर बीमारी से अधिक सुरक्षा।
- EDE-like antibodies explained **42%–65%** of the protective effect of mature virus-neutralising antibodies and **41%–75%** of the effect of general E protein-binding antibodies. EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी ने परिपक्व वायरस-न्यूट्रलाइजिंग एंटीबॉडी के सुरक्षात्मक प्रभाव का **42%–65%** और सामान्य E प्रोटीन-बाइंडिंग एंटीबॉडी के प्रभाव का **41%–75%** समझाया।



- This suggested that EDE-like antibodies are a **primary underlying determinant** of broad, cross-reactive immunity against dengue.
इससे संकेत मिलता है कि EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी डेंगू के खिलाफ व्यापक, क्रॉस-रिएक्टिव प्रतिरक्षा की प्राथमिक अंतर्निहित निर्धारक हैं।
- Study limitations: small number of dengue cases for assessing all four serotypes, and a limited panel of monoclonal antibodies used for characterisation.
अध्ययन की सीमाएँ: सभी चार सीरोटाइप्स का आकलन करने के लिए डेंगू मामलों की संख्या कम थी, और विशेषताओं के लिए मोनोक्लोनल एंटीबॉडी का सीमित पैनल इस्तेमाल किया गया।
- Future direction: Validate EDE-like antibodies as **reliable indicators** of protection for vaccine trials; design vaccines to elicit high EDE-like antibody levels for better dengue protection.
भविष्य की दिशा: EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी को वैक्सीन परीक्षणों के लिए सुरक्षा के विश्वसनीय संकेतक के रूप में मान्य करना; ऐसी वैक्सीन तैयार करना जो EDE-जैसी एंटीबॉडी का उच्च स्तर उत्पन्न करें ताकि डेंगू से बेहतर सुरक्षा हो सके।

Dengue

- Dengue is a **mosquito-borne viral infection** caused by the *Dengue virus (DENV)*, which has **four distinct serotypes** (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, DENV-4).
- **Classification:**
 - Acute viral disease.
 - **Notifiable disease in India under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).**
- **WHO Category:** **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD).**

Causative Agent & Vector

- **Causative Agent:** Dengue virus, genus *Flavivirus*, family *Flaviviridae*.
- **Vector:** *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes.
 - **Biting Time:** Day-biting, especially early morning and late afternoon.
 - **Breeding Sites:** Artificial water containers, stagnant clean water.

3. Transmission

- **Vector-borne:** Human → Mosquito → Human cycle.
- **Incubation Period:** 4–10 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.
- Vertical transmission (mother to fetus) possible but rare.

WHO classifies dengue into:

1. **Dengue without warning signs**
 - Fever, rash, muscle/joint pain (“breakbone fever”), headache, nausea.
2. **Dengue with warning signs**
 - Abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, mucosal bleeding, liver enlargement, lethargy.



3. Severe Dengue (Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever / Dengue Shock Syndrome)

- Plasma leakage, severe bleeding, organ impairment.

5. Diagnosis

- **Clinical:** Based on symptoms and epidemiological link during outbreak.
- **Laboratory:**
 - **NS1 Antigen Test** (within first 5 days).
 - **IgM ELISA** (after day 5).
 - Platelet count monitoring (thrombocytopenia).

6. Treatment

- **No specific antiviral treatment.**
- **Supportive care:**
 - Oral/IV fluid therapy.
 - Antipyretics (*paracetamol only*; avoid aspirin/NSAIDs to prevent bleeding risk).
 - Platelet transfusion if severe thrombocytopenia with active bleeding.

7. Prevention & Control

- **Vector Control:**
 - Source reduction (remove stagnant water).
 - Larvicidal measures (temephos, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*).
 - Adult mosquito control (fogging).



- **Personal Protection:**
 - Use of mosquito nets, repellents, full-sleeve clothing.
- **Community Awareness:**
 - “Dry Day” campaigns.
 - Information through IEC (Information, Education, Communication) activities.
- **Vaccination:** CYD-TDV (Dengvaxia) approved in some countries, but **not part of India’s universal immunization** due to safety concerns.



A peacock displays its plumage. P11

Peacock feathers can behave like small lasers, researchers say

GS III: S&T
Vasudevan Mukunth

Peacock tail feathers are famous for their shimmering eyespots – features packed with microscopic rods and layers that reflect certain colours but not others.

In a recent study, scientists from three universities in the U.S. have found that when peacock feathers are soaked in a common laser dye called rhodamine 6G, the feathers’ inner structure behaves like a laser cavity, bouncing light back and forth, amplifying it before letting it escape to the outside.

In other words, peacock feathers can emit narrow beams of light like a laser.

The findings were published in *Scientific Reports*.

The research team also reported that the exact colours of the light that escape could reveal hidden patterns inside the feathers that are otherwise hard to see with normal microscopes.

After obtaining natural peacock feathers, the researchers repeatedly wetted the eyespot with a strong solution of rhodamine 6G in alcohol and water, letting it dry between rounds. This cycling helped the dye and solvent move into the diminutive keratin structures in the feathers, slowly loosening the fibrous material inside.

They first measured how different parts of the eyespot reflected light to understand the feather’s in-built color bands. Then they aimed short, intense green laser pulses at the dyed feathers and recorded the emitted light with a spectrometer while carefully tracking the pump energy. They also captured microscope images to relate the feathers’ appearance to their optical behaviour.

Scientists have found that when peacock features are soaked in rhodamine 6G, they behave like a laser cavity, bouncing light back and forth, amplifying it before letting it escape to the outside

Nothing special happened after a single stain. But after multiple wet/dry cycles, the team pumped the sample feathers with laser light while they were still wet, and sharp, narrow emission lines appeared – clear signs that the feathers were bouncing some frequencies of light back and forth, rather than simply glowing.

Strikingly, the researchers found the same two wavelengths kept showing up in the data – around 574 nm and 583 nm – across all the main coloured parts of the eyespot, whether blue, green, yellow, or brown.

They measured how quickly each sharp colour brightened as they turned up the laser power, and how much power it took before a colour suddenly became strong. The “how quickly it brightens” part is called slope efficiency, and the “how much power it takes to turn on” is the threshold.

Which colour won depended on where they looked on the feather. In the browner areas, the 583 nm colour brightened the fastest once the laser came on. In the yellower areas, the 574 nm colour was stronger.

As for the thresholds: the researchers found that the 574 nm colour took about 170 and 100 microjoules per square mm in the brown and yellow areas, respectively. Likewise, the 583 nm colour took about 380 and 290 microjoules per square mm in the same areas. In other words, the yellower areas needed less power to emit the 574 nm colour, whereas the browner areas favoured the 583 nm line but needed more power to emit it.

Overall, the greener areas tended to glow the strongest. This was expected because the rhodamine 6G dye absorbs green light well, then reemits light in the yellow-orange range.

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Peacock feathers can behave like small lasers, researchers say

मोर के पंख छोटे लेज़र की तरह व्यवहार कर सकते हैं, शोधकर्ताओं का कहना है

Peacock tail feathers laser study

मोर की पूंछ के पंखों पर लेजर अध्ययन

• **Peacock tail feathers** are famous for their shimmering **eyesspots** — features packed with microscopic rods and layers that reflect certain colours but not others.

मोर की पूंछ के पंख अपने चमकते हुए **आईस्पॉट्स** के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं — जिनमें सूक्ष्मदर्शी छड़ों और परतों से भरी संरचनाएँ होती हैं जो कुछ रंगों को परावर्तित करती हैं लेकिन अन्य को नहीं।

• In a recent study, scientists from three universities in the **U.S.** have found that when peacock features are soaked in a common laser dye called **rhodamine 6G**, the feathers’ inner structure behaves like a **laser cavity**, bouncing light back and forth, amplifying it before letting it escape to the outside.

हाल के एक अध्ययन में, **अमेरिका** की तीन विश्वविद्यालयों

के वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि जब मोर के पंखों को **rhodamine 6G** नामक एक सामान्य लेजर ड्राई में



भिगोया जाता है, तो पंखों की आंतरिक संरचना एक लेजर कैविटी की तरह व्यवहार करती है, जो प्रकाश को आगे-पीछे उछालती है, उसे बढ़ाती है और फिर बाहर निकलने देती है।

- In other words, peacock feathers can emit narrow beams of light like a **laser**. दूसरे शब्दों में, मोर के पंख एक लेजर की तरह संकीर्ण प्रकाश किरणें उत्सर्जित कर सकते हैं।
- The findings were published in **Scientific Reports**.
ये निष्कर्ष **साइंटिफिक रिपोर्ट्स** में प्रकाशित हुए।
- The research team also reported that the exact colours of the light that escape could reveal hidden patterns inside the feathers that are otherwise hard to see with normal microscopes.
शोध दल ने यह भी बताया कि बाहर निकलने वाली रोशनी के सटीक रंग पंखों के अंदर छिपे पैटर्न को प्रकट कर सकते हैं, जिन्हें सामान्य माइक्रोस्कोप से देखना मुश्किल होता है।
- After obtaining natural peacock feathers, the researchers repeatedly wetted the **eyespots** with a strong solution of **rhodamine 6G** in alcohol and water, letting it dry between rounds.
प्राकृतिक मोर के पंख प्राप्त करने के बाद, शोधकर्ताओं ने **आईस्पॉट्स** को अल्कोहल और पानी में **rhodamine 6G** के एक मजबूत घोल से बार-बार गीला किया, और प्रत्येक बार सूखने दिया।
- This cycling helped the dye and solvent move into the diminutive **keratin structures** in the feathers, slowly loosening the fibrous material inside.
इस चक्र ने डाई और विलायक को पंखों की सूक्ष्म **केराटिन संरचनाओं** में जाने में मदद की, जिससे अंदर का रेशदार पदार्थ धीरे-धीरे ढीला हो गया।
- They first measured how different parts of the **eyespots** reflected light to understand the feather's in-built colour bands.
उन्होंने पहले यह मापा कि **आईस्पॉट्स** के विभिन्न भाग प्रकाश को कैसे परावर्तित करते हैं ताकि पंखों के अंतर्निर्मित रंग बैंड को समझा जा सके।
- Then they aimed short, intense **green laser pulses** at the dyed feathers and recorded the emitted light with a spectrometer while carefully tracking the pump energy.
फिर उन्होंने रंगे हुए पंखों पर छोटी, तीव्र **ग्रीन लेजर पल्सेस** डालीं और स्पेक्ट्रोमीटर से उत्सर्जित प्रकाश को रिकॉर्ड किया, जबकि पंप ऊर्जा को सावधानीपूर्वक ट्रैक किया।
- They also captured microscope images to relate the feathers' appearance to their optical behaviour.
उन्होंने पंखों की उपस्थिति को उनके प्रकाशीय व्यवहार से जोड़ने के लिए माइक्रोस्कोप छवियां भी लीं।
- Nothing special happened after a single stain.
एक बार रंगने के बाद कुछ खास नहीं हुआ।
- But after multiple wet/dry cycles, the team pumped the sample feathers with **laser light** while they were still wet, and sharp, narrow emission lines appeared — clear signs that the feathers were bouncing some frequencies of light back and forth, rather than simply glowing.
लेकिन कई बार गीला/सूखा चक्र के बाद, टीम ने नमूना पंखों को **लेजर प्रकाश** से तब पंप किया जब वे अभी भी गीले थे, और तेज, संकीर्ण उत्सर्जन रेखाएं दिखाई दीं — यह स्पष्ट संकेत था कि पंख केवल चमक नहीं रहे थे बल्कि कुछ प्रकाश आवृत्तियों को आगे-पीछे उछाल रहे थे।
- Strikingly, the researchers found the same two wavelengths kept showing up in the data — around **574 nm** and **583 nm** — across all the main coloured parts of the eyespot, whether blue, green, yellow, or brown.



- आश्चर्यजनक रूप से, शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि डेटा में वही दो तरंग दैर्घ्य बार-बार दिखाई देती थीं — लगभग **574 nm** और **583 nm** — चाहे आईस्पॉट का मुख्य रंग नीला, हरा, पीला या भूरा हो।
- They measured how quickly each sharp colour brightened as they turned up the laser power, and how much power it took before a colour suddenly became strong.
उन्होंने यह मापा कि लेजर शक्ति बढ़ाने पर प्रत्येक तेज रंग कितनी जल्दी चमकता है, और किसी रंग के अचानक मजबूत होने से पहले कितनी शक्ति की आवश्यकता होती है।
 - The “how quickly it brightens” part is called **slope efficiency**, and the “how much power it takes to turn on” is the **threshold**.
“यह कितनी जल्दी चमकता है” वाले हिस्से को **स्लोप एफिशिएंसी** कहा जाता है, और “इसे चालू करने में कितनी शक्ति लगती है” को **थ्रेशोल्ड** कहा जाता है।
 - Which colour won depended on where they looked on the feather.
कौन सा रंग जीता, यह इस पर निर्भर करता था कि वे पंख के किस हिस्से को देख रहे थे।
 - In the browner areas, the **583 nm** colour brightened the fastest once the laser came on.
भूरे क्षेत्रों में, **583 nm** रंग लेजर चालू होते ही सबसे तेजी से चमकता था।
 - In the yellower areas, the **574 nm** colour was stronger.
पीले क्षेत्रों में, **574 nm** रंग अधिक मजबूत था।
 - As for the thresholds: the researchers found that the **574 nm** colour took about **170** and **100 microjoules** per square mm in the brown and yellow areas, respectively.
थ्रेशोल्ड के मामले में: शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि **574 nm** रंग को भूरे और पीले क्षेत्रों में क्रमशः लगभग **170** और **100 माइक्रोजूल प्रति वर्ग मिमी** की आवश्यकता होती थी।
 - Likewise, the **583 nm** colour took about **380** and **290 microjoules** per square mm in the same areas.
इसी तरह, **583 nm** रंग को उन्हीं क्षेत्रों में लगभग **380** और **290 माइक्रोजूल प्रति वर्ग मिमी** की आवश्यकता होती थी।
 - In other words, the yellower areas needed less power to emit the **574 nm** colour, whereas the browner areas favoured the **583 nm** line but needed more power to emit it.
दूसरे शब्दों में, पीले क्षेत्रों को **574 nm** रंग उत्सर्जित करने के लिए कम शक्ति की आवश्यकता होती थी, जबकि भूरे क्षेत्रों में **583 nm** लाइन को प्राथमिकता दी जाती थी लेकिन इसे उत्सर्जित करने के लिए अधिक शक्ति चाहिए होती थी।
 - Overall, the greener areas tended to glow the strongest.
समग्र रूप से, हरे क्षेत्र सबसे अधिक चमकते थे।
 - This was expected because the **rhodamine 6G** dye absorbs green light well, then reemits light in the yellow-orange range.
यह अपेक्षित था क्योंकि **rhodamine 6G** डाई हरे प्रकाश को अच्छी तरह अवशोषित करती है और फिर पीले-नारंगी सीमा में प्रकाश को पुनः उत्सर्जित करती है।

- **LASER** stands for **Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation**.



- A device that emits light through a process based on **stimulated emission**, producing **highly coherent, monochromatic, and directional** light.

2. Basic Principle

- **Stimulated Emission** (proposed by Albert Einstein in 1917):
 - When an excited atom or molecule is struck by a photon of a specific energy, it can emit another photon with the **same phase, frequency, direction, and polarization**.
- **Population Inversion**:
 - A condition where more atoms are in an excited state than in the ground state—necessary for laser action.
- **Optical Cavity**:
 - Mirrors placed at both ends of the gain medium reflect photons back and forth, amplifying them.

Key Characteristics of Laser Light

- **Monochromatic** – Single wavelength.
- **Coherent** – Waves are in phase.
- **Highly directional** – Narrow beam spread.

High intensity – Can be concentrated on a small area.



GS III: Environment

Assuaging concerns

Vehicle owners deserve support on use of ethanol-blended fuel

The downsides to ethanol use when compared to petrol are well known, including in the U.S. and Brazil, that have led in ethanol blending. But the engineering behind the safe and efficient use of ethanol-blended petrol, from 5% to 100%, is established too. Ethanol blending began as a response to the oil shock of the 1970s. Ethanol has also been pushed as carbon neutral. For India, however, the clinching argument is import substitution and lower price. The government's case is that ethanol blending up to 20% can ensure \$10 billion being put in Indian pockets every year. But, the benefits will be uneven for farmers, traders and distillers. India's case hinges on increasing use of C-heavy molasses that are not used for sugar making, using broken rice that otherwise rots in godowns, and on ramping up acreage and productivity of maize that is agriculturally less demanding. These are supposed to set off food security concerns. Once the ethanol economy is fully established, however, it may be tough to prioritise food stocks over the interests of stakeholders in case of shortages and imbalances. Import substitution figures can be dented by import of farm inputs such as fertilizers that have a forex outgo of \$10 billion.

Ethanol has an efficiency penalty – it can affect material durability and corrode fuel handling systems. But, global studies have shown that vehicles manufactured as per Euro 2, U.S. Tier 1 and India's BS 2 norms (in force since 2001) are compatible for ethanol use up to E15. The closed loop fuel control systems mandated to control fuel burning and keeping emissions down in BS 2 can help to mitigate efficiency and durability penalties of ethanol and the upgraded materials in BS 2 can help to reduce corrosion. In addition, as per norms, India's vehicles sold since 2023 are committed to handle up to E20 although questions arise over the impact on the mass of older vehicles. And what is not helping is that in India there is no choice for consumers. Also, any reduction in price claimed earlier does not seem to be reflected in the bunk. Meanwhile, India has adopted two ethanol-specific norms and is expected to come up with E27, taking a cue from Brazil. While the government insists that its research indicates no harm, what would really help is full disclosure by automakers on their past brands even as they are announcing models that can accept any level of ethanol. For instance, some models sold some five years ago accepted only E5. Manufacturers should indicate possible mitigation routes for such models. And the government must back insurance claims. Transparency should support policy moves.

Assuaging concerns

चिंताओं को दूर करना

- Vehicle owners deserve support on use of **ethanol-blended fuel**.
- वाहन मालिक एथनॉल-मिश्रित ईंधन के उपयोग पर समर्थन के हकदार हैं।

Downsides to Ethanol Use Compared to Petrol

पेट्रोल की तुलना में एथनॉल उपयोग के नुकसान

- The downsides to **ethanol use** when compared to **petrol** are well known, including in the **U.S.** and **Brazil**, that have led in **ethanol blending**. But the engineering behind the safe and efficient use of ethanol-blended petrol, from **5% to 100%**, is established too.

पेट्रोल की तुलना में एथनॉल के उपयोग के नुकसान अच्छी तरह से ज्ञात हैं, जिनमें अमेरिका और ब्राज़ील शामिल हैं, जिन्होंने एथनॉल मिश्रण में बढ़त बनाई है। लेकिन 5% से 100% तक एथनॉल-मिश्रित पेट्रोल के सुरक्षित और कुशल उपयोग के पीछे की इंजीनियरिंग भी स्थापित है।

- **Ethanol blending began as a response to the oil shock of the 1970s**. Ethanol has also been pushed as **carbon neutral**. For India, however, the clinching argument is **import substitution** and **lower price**.

एथनॉल मिश्रण की शुरुआत 1970 के तेल संकट के जवाब के रूप में हुई थी। एथनॉल को कार्बन न्यूट्रल के रूप में भी बढ़ावा दिया गया है। हालांकि, भारत के लिए, निर्णायक तर्क आयात प्रतिस्थापन और कम कीमत है।

- The **government's case is that ethanol blending up to 20% can ensure \$10 billion being put in Indian pockets every year**. But, the benefits will be uneven for **farmers, traders** and **distillers**.

सरकार का कहना है कि 20% तक एथनॉल मिश्रण से हर साल 10 अरब डॉलर भारतीयों की जेब में जा सकते हैं। लेकिन, इसके लाभ किसानों, व्यापारियों और डिस्टिलरों के लिए असमान होंगे।

- India's case hinges on increasing use of **C-heavy molasses** that are not used for sugar making, using **broken rice** that otherwise rots in godowns, and on ramping up acreage and productivity of **maize** that is agriculturally less demanding.

भारत का मामला C-भारी शीरे के बढ़ते उपयोग पर आधारित है, जो चीनी बनाने में उपयोग नहीं होते, टूटा हुआ चावल जो अन्यथा गोदामों



में सड़ जाता है, और मक्का के रकबे और उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने पर, जो कृषि की दृष्टि से कम मांग वाला है।

- These are supposed to set off **food security concerns**. Once the ethanol economy is fully established, however, it may be tough to prioritise **food stocks** over the interests of stakeholders in case of shortages and imbalances.

इनसे **खाद्य सुरक्षा चिंताओं** को दूर करने की उम्मीद है। हालांकि, एक बार एथनॉल अर्थव्यवस्था पूरी तरह स्थापित हो जाने पर, कमी और असंतुलन की स्थिति में हितधारकों के हितों के ऊपर **खाद्य भंडार** को प्राथमिकता देना कठिन हो सकता है।

- **Import substitution figures can be dented by import of farm inputs such as fertilizers that have a forex outgo of \$10 billion.**

आयात प्रतिस्थापन के आंकड़े उर्वरकों जैसे कृषि इनपुट के आयात से प्रभावित हो सकते हैं, जिन पर **10 अरब डॉलर** का विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च होता है।

- **Ethanol has an efficiency penalty** — it can affect **material durability** and corrode **fuel handling systems**. But, global studies have shown that vehicles manufactured as per **Euro 2, U.S. Tier 1** and **India's BS 2 norms** (in force since **2001**) are compatible for ethanol use up to **E15**.

एथनॉल में दक्षता दंड है — यह सामग्री की टिकाऊपन को प्रभावित कर सकता है और **ईंधन हैंडलिंग सिस्टम** को जंग लगा सकता है। लेकिन, वैश्विक अध्ययनों से पता चला है कि **यूरो 2, अमेरिका टियर 1** और **भारत के BS 2 मानकों** (जो **2001** से लागू हैं) के अनुसार निर्मित वाहन **E15** तक एथनॉल उपयोग के लिए अनुकूल हैं।

- The **closed loop fuel control systems** mandated to control fuel burning and keeping emissions down in **BS 2** can help to mitigate efficiency and durability penalties of ethanol and the **upgraded materials** in BS 2 can help to reduce corrosion.

BS 2 में ईंधन जलने को नियंत्रित करने और उत्सर्जन को कम रखने के लिए अनिवार्य **क्लोज्ड लूप फ्यूल कंट्रोल सिस्टम** एथनॉल की दक्षता और टिकाऊपन के दंड को कम करने में मदद कर सकते हैं और **BS 2** में **अपग्रेडेड सामग्री** जंग को कम करने में मदद कर सकती है।

- As per norms, **India's vehicles sold since 2023** are committed to handle up to **E20** although questions arise over the impact on the mass of **older vehicles**.

मानकों के अनुसार, **2023 से बेचे गए भारत के वाहन E20** तक संभालने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं, हालांकि **पुराने वाहनों** पर प्रभाव को लेकर सवाल उठते हैं।

- What is not helping is that in **India** there is **no choice for consumers**. Also, any reduction in price claimed earlier does not seem to be reflected in the **bunk**.

जो मदद नहीं कर रहा है, वह यह है कि **भारत में उपभोक्ताओं के लिए कोई विकल्प नहीं है**। साथ ही, पहले दावा की गई किसी भी मूल्य में कटौती **पेट्रोल पंप** में दिखाई नहीं देती।

- **India** has adopted **two ethanol-specific norms** and is expected to come up with **E27**, taking a cue from **Brazil**.

भारत ने दो एथनॉल-विशिष्ट मानक अपनाए हैं और **ब्राज़ील** से संकेत लेते हुए **E27** लाने की उम्मीद है।

- While the **government** insists that its **research** indicates no harm, what would really help is **full disclosure by automakers** on their past brands even as they are announcing models that can accept any level of ethanol.

जबकि **सरकार** का कहना है कि उसका **अनुसंधान** किसी नुकसान का संकेत नहीं देता, वास्तव में



मददगार होगा यदि वाहन निर्माता अपने पुराने ब्रांड पर पूर्ण खुलासा करें, भले ही वे ऐसे मॉडल की घोषणा कर रहे हों जो किसी भी स्तर का एथनॉल स्वीकार कर सकते हों।

- For instance, some models sold some **five years ago** accepted only **E5**. Manufacturers should indicate possible mitigation routes for such models.
उदाहरण के लिए, लगभग पांच साल पहले बेचे गए कुछ मॉडलों ने केवल **E5** स्वीकार किया था। निर्माताओं को ऐसे मॉडलों के लिए संभावित समाधान मार्ग बताने चाहिए।
- The **government** must back **insurance claims**. **Transparency** should support policy moves.
सरकार को बीमा दावों का समर्थन करना चाहिए। पारदर्शिता को नीतिगत कदमों का समर्थन करना चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS



The airline industry's best kept dirty secret: sustainable jet-fuel failures

Nearly 20 years after the first commercial flight powered partly by biofuels made the short hop from London to Amsterdam, Reuters found that the airline industry's plans to go green before regulators start penalising them are little more than a pipe dream; of 165 SAF projects only 36 materialised

GS III: Environment

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters

PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA

In 2019, Scott Kirby, the chief executive of United Airlines, hailed its new contract with green jet fuel producer World Energy as an example for the aviation industry to follow in its drive to cut emissions. Six years later, that collaboration is dead.

Boston-based World Energy was one of the first companies in the world to produce commercial quantities of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), a type of renewable fuel made from sources such as used cooking oil, agricultural residues and other waste.

Its Paramount refinery near downtown Los Angeles had been a rare success story, supplying millions of gallons of SAF a year to airlines such as United Airlines and fellow U.S. carrier JetBlue Airways. The plant, which began operations in 2016, was central to the carriers' pledges to help the airline industry switch to a blend of 10% SAF by the end of this decade.

Lack of commitment

But the refinery quietly ceased operations in April. And World Energy's plans for a second plant in Houston have stalled amid a lack of commitment from



Drying up: A drone view of World Energy refinery in Paramount, California, U.S. REUTERS

the industry, according to CEO Gene Gebolys.

"Some airlines were engaged in a pretty disingenuous effort to put out press releases" overstating their commitment to SAF projects, Mr. Gebolys said, without naming any companies. "People sometimes said too much in the past and did too little."

Still, Mr. Gebolys acknowledged some airlines made a genuine effort to support SAF producers, while governments also needed to step up with stronger incentives to drive progress.

The termination of United's fuel purchase contract with World Energy – and the closure of the Paramount refinery – have not previously been reported.



Aviation sector is yet to publish comprehensive roadmap or transparent database of upcoming SAF projects that would allow regulators public to assess the credibility of the projections

United Airlines said it ended relationship with World Energy "a few years ago", without providing a reason. A JetBlue spokesperson said World Energy has been a "valued partner" since 2020 and it will continue working with the company.

World Energy's struggles mirror the plight of dozens of clean fuel startups,

according to a Reuters review of the sector.

Nearly 20 years after the first commercial flight powered partly by biofuels made the short hop from London to Amsterdam, Reuters found airline industry's plans to go green before regulators start penalising them are little more than a pipe dream.

No clear pathway

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), a global body that represents 340 airlines, forecasts SAF will account for 0.7% of total jet fuel this year, up from 0.3% in 2024. Air passenger traffic, meanwhile, is expected to rise 6% this year, IATA says.

IATA has set a goal of net zero emissions by 2050, a

target that would require airlines to ramp up SAF use to 118 billion gallons annually, a more than 300-fold increase from current production.

Airline industry leaders point to a wave of new SAF initiatives they say will spark a boom similar to the rapid rise of electric vehicles and solar energy.

However, the aviation sector is yet to publish a comprehensive roadmap or a transparent database of upcoming SAF projects that would allow regulators and public to assess credibility of the projections.

To scrutinise the industry's claims, Reuters built its own database of airline SAF initiatives - offering the most comprehensive view yet of the sector's faltering green progress and revealing that the industry has no clear pathway to hitting net zero targets.

While airlines have announced 165 SAF projects over the past 12 years, only 36 have materialised, Reuters found. Among those, Reuters uncovered problems at three of the largest - including World Energy - that exemplify the systemic challenges plaguing the SAF sector.

Of the remaining projects, 23 have been abandoned, 27 are delayed or on indefinite hold, 31 have yet to produce any fuel, and 4 are SAF credit deals, where no physical fuel is

delivered. For the other 44 projects, Reuters was unable to find any public updates since their initial announcements.

If all the pending projects announced by airlines reached the maximum potential, it would only add 12 billion gallons of SAF production, the Reuters analysis found. That's about 10% of what's needed to hit the net zero target. Airlines pin the problems on the oil industry, saying it isn't producing enough fuel.

"These guys are the cause of the problem, and they've got to start playing their part," said Willie Walsh, director of IATA, the global airline lobby, and a former CEO of British Airways and its parent International Airlines Group.

At the moment, SAF costs three to five times more than jet fuel and some oil firm executives argue there is limited demand from airlines at current prices. "I'd like there to be a shortage. I actually see an overcapacity," Bernard Pinatel, head of downstream and marketing and services at TotalEnergies, told the press.

The Paramount refinery, which used cooking oil and animal fat from a local abattoir to make fuel, repeatedly stumbled in its efforts to expand and all 35 employees were laid off in April, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The airline industry's best kept dirty secret: sustainable jet-fuel failures

एयरलाइन उद्योग का सबसे छुपा हुआ गंदा राज़: टिकाऊ जेट-ईंधन की असफलताएँ

Nearly 20 years after the first commercial flight powered partly by biofuels made the short hop from London to Amsterdam, Reuters found that the airline industry's plans to go green before regulators start penalising them are little more than a pipe dream; of 165 SAF projects only 36 materialised.

लगभग 20 साल बाद, जब पहली वाणिज्यिक उड़ान आंशिक रूप से बायोफ्यूल से संचालित होकर लंदन से एम्सटर्डम गई थी, रॉयटर्स ने पाया कि एयरलाइन उद्योग की ग्रीन होने की योजनाएँ, नियामकों द्वारा दंडित करने से पहले, महज़ एक सपना हैं; 165 SAF परियोजनाओं में से केवल 36 ही साकार हुईं।



- In 2019, **Scott Kirby**, the chief executive of **United Airlines**, hailed its new contract with green jet fuel producer **World Energy** as an example for the aviation industry to follow in its drive to cut emissions. Six years later, that collaboration is dead.

2019 में, यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस के मुख्य कार्यकारी स्कॉट किर्बी ने वर्ल्ड एनर्जी नामक ग्रीन जेट ईंधन निर्माता के साथ अपने नए अनुबंध की प्रशंसा की, इसे उत्सर्जन कम करने की दिशा में विमानन उद्योग के लिए एक उदाहरण बताया। छह साल बाद, वह सहयोग समाप्त हो गया।
- Boston-based World Energy** was one of the first companies in the world to produce commercial quantities of **sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)**, a type of renewable fuel made from sources such as used cooking oil, agricultural residues and other waste.

बोस्टन स्थित वर्ल्ड एनर्जी दुनिया की पहली कंपनियों में से एक थी जिसने वाणिज्यिक मात्रा में टिकाऊ विमानन ईंधन (SAF) का उत्पादन किया, जो प्रयुक्त खाना पकाने के तेल, कृषि अवशेष और अन्य कचरे जैसे स्रोतों से बनाया जाता है।
- Its **Paramount refinery** near downtown **Los Angeles** had been a rare success story, supplying millions of gallons of SAF a year to airlines such as **United Airlines** and **JetBlue Airways**. The plant, which began operations in 2016, was central to the carriers' pledges to help the airline industry switch to a blend of **10% SAF** by the end of this decade.

डाउनटाउन लॉस एंजिल्स के पास स्थित इसकी पैरामाउंट रिफाइनरी एक दुर्लभ सफलता की कहानी रही, जो हर साल लाखों गैलन SAF की आपूर्ति यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस और जेटब्लू एयरवेज़ जैसी एयरलाइनों को करती थी। 2016 में संचालन शुरू करने वाला यह प्लांट, इस दशक के अंत तक एयरलाइन उद्योग को 10% SAF मिश्रण में बदलने के लिए केंद्रीय था।
- Lack of commitment** – But the refinery quietly ceased operations in **April**. And **World Energy's** plans for a second plant in **Houston** have stalled amid a lack of commitment from the industry, according to CEO **Gene Gebolys**.

प्रतिबद्धता की कमी – लेकिन इस रिफाइनरी ने अप्रैल में चुपचाप संचालन बंद कर दिया। और सीईओ जीन गेबोलिस के अनुसार, उद्योग की प्रतिबद्धता की कमी के कारण ह्यूस्टन में दूसरा प्लांट बनाने की वर्ल्ड एनर्जी की योजना ठप हो गई है।
- “Some airlines were engaged in a pretty disingenuous effort to put out press releases” overstating their commitment to SAF projects, Mr. **Gebolys** said, without naming any companies. “People sometimes said too much in the past and did too little.”

श्री गेबोलिस ने बिना किसी कंपनी का नाम लिए कहा, “कुछ एयरलाइंस SAF परियोजनाओं के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर पेश करने के लिए प्रेस विज्ञप्तियां जारी करने में काफी बेईमानी से लगी हुई थीं। लोग अतीत में कभी-कभी बहुत बोलते थे और बहुत कम करते थे।”
- Still, Mr. **Gebolys** acknowledged some airlines made a genuine effort to support SAF producers, while governments also needed to step up with stronger incentives to drive progress.

फिर भी, श्री गेबोलिस ने स्वीकार किया कि कुछ एयरलाइनों ने SAF निर्माताओं का समर्थन करने के लिए वास्तविक प्रयास किया, जबकि सरकारों को भी प्रगति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मजबूत प्रोत्साहनों के साथ आगे आना चाहिए।
- The termination of **United's** fuel purchase contract with **World Energy** — and the closure of the **Paramount refinery** — have not previously been reported.

यूनाइटेड के वर्ल्ड एनर्जी के साथ ईंधन खरीद अनुबंध की समाप्ति — और पैरामाउंट रिफाइनरी का बंद होना — पहले रिपोर्ट नहीं किया गया था।



- **United Airlines** said it ended its relationship with **World Energy** “a few years ago”, without providing a reason. A **JetBlue** spokesperson said **World Energy** has been a “valued partner” since **2020** and it will continue working with the company.
यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस ने कहा कि उसने “कुछ साल पहले” **वर्ल्ड एनर्जी** के साथ संबंध समाप्त कर दिए थे, बिना कारण बताए। एक **जेटब्लू** प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि **2020** से **वर्ल्ड एनर्जी** एक “मूल्यवान भागीदार” ही है और कंपनी के साथ काम जारी रहेगा।
- **World Energy’s** struggles mirror the plight of dozens of clean fuel startups, according to a **Reuters** review of the sector.
रॉयटर्स की इस क्षेत्र की समीक्षा के अनुसार, **वर्ल्ड एनर्जी** की संघर्षपूर्ण स्थिति दर्जनों स्वच्छ ईंधन स्टार्टअप्स की दुर्दशा को दर्शाती है।
- Nearly **20 years** after the first commercial flight powered partly by biofuels made the short hop from **London to Amsterdam**, **Reuters** found the airline industry’s plans to go green before regulators start penalising them are little more than a pipe dream.
लगभग **20 साल** बाद, जब पहली वाणिज्यिक उड़ान आंशिक रूप से **बायोफ्यूल** से संचालित होकर लंदन से **एम्सटर्डम** गई थी, **रॉयटर्स** ने पाया कि एयरलाइन उद्योग की ग्रीन होने की योजनाएँ नियामकों द्वारा दंडित करने से पहले महज़ एक सपना हैं।

No clear pathway

कोई स्पष्ट मार्ग नहीं

- The **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, a global body that represents **340 airlines**, forecasts **SAF** will account for **0.7%** of total jet fuel this year, up from **0.3% in 2024**. Air passenger traffic, meanwhile, is expected to rise **6%** this year, IATA says.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वायु परिवहन संघ (**IATA**), जो **340 एयरलाइंस** का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाला एक वैश्विक संगठन है, का अनुमान है कि इस वर्ष **SAF** कुल जेट ईंधन का **0.7%** होगा, जो **2024 में 0.3%** से अधिक है। इस बीच, IATA का कहना है कि इस वर्ष हवाई यात्री यातायात में **6%** की वृद्धि होने की उम्मीद है।
- **IATA** has set a goal of **net zero emissions by 2050**, a target that would require airlines to ramp up SAF use to **118 billion gallons annually**, a more than **300-fold increase** from current production.
IATA ने **2050 तक नेट जीरो उत्सर्जन** का लक्ष्य रखा है, जिसके लिए एयरलाइंस को SAF उपयोग को प्रति वर्ष **118 अरब गैलन** तक बढ़ाना होगा, जो वर्तमान उत्पादन से **300 गुना से अधिक** की वृद्धि है।
- Airline industry leaders point to a wave of new **SAF initiatives** they say will spark a boom similar to the rapid rise of electric vehicles and solar energy.
एयरलाइन उद्योग के नेता नए **SAF पहलों** की एक लहर की ओर इशारा करते हैं, जो उनके अनुसार इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों और सौर ऊर्जा के तेजी से बढ़ने जैसी उछाल पैदा करेगी।
- However, the aviation sector is yet to publish a comprehensive roadmap or a transparent database of upcoming SAF projects that would allow regulators and the public to assess the credibility of the projections.
हालांकि, विमानन क्षेत्र को अभी तक एक व्यापक रोडमैप या आगामी SAF परियोजनाओं का पारदर्शी डेटाबेस प्रकाशित करना बाकी है, जिससे नियामकों और जनता को अनुमानों की विश्वसनीयता का आकलन करने की अनुमति मिलेगी।



- To scrutinise the industry's claims, **Reuters** built its own database of airline SAF initiatives — offering the most comprehensive view yet of the sector's faltering green progress and revealing that the industry has no clear pathway to hitting net zero targets.

उद्योग के दावों की जांच करने के लिए, **रॉयटर्स** ने एयरलाइन SAF पहलों का अपना डेटाबेस बनाया — जो क्षेत्र की डगमगाती हरित प्रगति का अब तक का सबसे व्यापक दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करता है और यह प्रकट करता है कि उद्योग के पास नेट जीरो लक्ष्यों को हासिल करने का कोई स्पष्ट मार्ग नहीं है।

- While airlines have announced **165 SAF projects** over the past **12 years**, only **36** have materialised, **Reuters** found.

रॉयटर्स के अनुसार, पिछले **12 वर्षों** में एयरलाइनों ने **165 SAF परियोजनाओं** की घोषणा की है, लेकिन केवल **36** ही साकार हुई हैं।

- Among those, **Reuters** uncovered problems at three of the largest — including **World Energy** — that exemplify the systemic challenges plaguing the SAF sector.

इनमें से, **रॉयटर्स** ने तीन सबसे बड़ी परियोजनाओं में समस्याओं का खुलासा किया — जिनमें **वर्ल्ड एनर्जी** भी शामिल है — जो SAF क्षेत्र को परेशान करने वाली प्रणालीगत चुनौतियों को दर्शाती हैं।

- Of the remaining projects, **23** have been abandoned, **27** are delayed or on indefinite hold, **31** have yet to produce any fuel, and **4** are SAF credit deals, where no physical fuel is delivered. For the other **44** projects, Reuters was unable to find any public updates since their initial announcements.

शेष परियोजनाओं में से, **23** को छोड़ दिया गया है, **27** में देरी हो रही है या वे अनिश्चित काल के लिए रुकी हुई हैं, **31** ने अभी तक कोई ईंधन नहीं बनाया है, और **4** SAF क्रेडिट सौदे हैं, जिनमें कोई वास्तविक ईंधन वितरित नहीं किया जाता है। अन्य **44** परियोजनाओं के लिए, **रॉयटर्स** को उनकी प्रारंभिक घोषणा के बाद से कोई सार्वजनिक अपडेट नहीं मिला।

- If all the pending projects announced by airlines reached their maximum potential, it would only add **12 billion gallons** of SAF production — about **10%** of what's needed to hit the net zero target. Airlines pin the problems on the oil industry, saying it isn't producing enough fuel.

यदि एयरलाइनों द्वारा घोषित सभी लंबित परियोजनाएं अपने अधिकतम क्षमता तक पहुंच जातीं, तो यह केवल **12 अरब गैलन** SAF उत्पादन जोड़ती — जो नेट जीरो लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक का लगभग **10%** है। एयरलाइंस समस्याओं का ठीकरा तेल उद्योग पर फोड़ती हैं, यह कहते हुए कि यह पर्याप्त ईंधन का उत्पादन नहीं कर रहा है।

- “These guys are the cause of the problem, and they've got to start playing their part,” said **Willie Walsh**, director of **IATA**, the global airline lobby, and a former CEO of **British Airways** and its parent **International Airlines Group**.

“ये लोग समस्या के कारण हैं, और इन्हें अपनी भूमिका निभाना शुरू करना होगा,” **IATA** के निदेशक और वैश्विक एयरलाइन लॉबी के सदस्य **विली वॉल्श**, तथा **ब्रिटिश एयरवेज** और इसकी मूल कंपनी **इंटरनेशनल एयरलाइंस ग्रुप** के पूर्व सीईओ ने कहा।

- At the moment, SAF costs **three to five times more** than jet fuel and some oil firm executives argue there is limited demand from airlines at current prices.

फिलहाल, SAF की कीमत जेट ईंधन से **तीन से पांच गुना अधिक** है और कुछ तेल कंपनी के अधिकारी तर्क देते हैं कि मौजूदा कीमतों पर एयरलाइनों की मांग सीमित है।

- “I'd like there to be a shortage. I actually see an overcapacity,” **Bernard Pinatel**, head of downstream and marketing and services at **TotalEnergies**, told the press.

“मैं चाहता हूँ कि कमी हो। वास्तव में, मैं अधिक क्षमता देख रहा हूँ,” **टोटलएनर्जी** के डाउनस्ट्रीम और विपणन तथा सेवाओं के प्रमुख **बर्नार्ड पिनाटेल** ने प्रेस को बताया।



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

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

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- The **Paramount refinery**, which used cooking oil and animal fat from a local abattoir to make fuel, repeatedly stumbled in its efforts to expand and all **35 employees** were laid off in **April**, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

पैरामाउंट रिफाइनरी, जो ईंधन बनाने के लिए स्थानीय कसाईखाने से खाना पकाने का तेल और पशु वसा का उपयोग करती थी, विस्तार के प्रयासों में बार-बार विफल रही और **अप्रैल** में इसके सभी **35 कर्मचारी** निकाल दिए गए, इस मामले की सीधी जानकारी रखने वाले दो सूत्रों ने बताया।

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