



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21 AUGUST 2025

To watch an in-depth discussion on the topic, click on the YouTube link below:

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

For regular updates on UPSC and PCS preparation, join our Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

21_08_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Feline drama



Festival bash: Students of Srinivasa University city campus at Pandeshwar, Mangaluru, performing a tiger dance as part of celebrations for Onam, and Krishna Janmashtami on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

GS I: A&C

Onam: Kerala's Grand Harvest Festival

- Onam is the **official festival of Kerala**, celebrated across religious and social communities. It marks a time of **harvest, prosperity, and unity**.
- Celebrated during the **Malayalam month of Chingam** (August–September), typically spanning **10 days**.

Legend of Mahabali and Vamana

- Rooted in **Bhagavata Purana**, the tale involves King **Mahabali**, a benevolent Asura ruler, and **Lord Vishnu** taking the **Vamana avatar** (dwarf Brahmin) to humble the king.
- Mahabali's annual return to his kingdom symbolizes Onam — a celebration of his visit and Kerala's golden age.



Ancient References

- Early mentions appear in Sangam literature like **Maturaikkanci** (3rd century CE).
- **Alvar saints** and inscriptions, including an 11th-century one in **Thrikkakara Temple**, echo Onam's deep-rooted history.

- In 1961, Kerala's government declared Onam as the **state's national festival**, aiming to bolster **tourism** and **social integration**

Punishing process

Gender identity recognition must not be trapped in bureaucratic hurdles

The Manipur High Court's order to the State to issue fresh academic certificates to Beoncy Laishram is at once a matter of individual justice and a larger commentary on the state of transgender rights. What should have been a simple administrative correction became a legal battle, not because the law lacks provisions but because its implementation remains frustrated by inertia and bureaucratic rigidity. In *NALSA vs Union of India*, the Supreme Court recognised the right to self-identify gender and ordered the state to treat transpersons as socially and educationally backward classes entitled to welfare measures. The principle was codified in the *Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019*, which also obligated authorities to recognise a person's self-identified gender and issue official documents. Together with Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, transpersons are thus entitled to having their affirmed identity seamlessly recognised in all institutional records. Yet, their lived reality is very different. Despite the law being clear on self-identification, bureaucratic setups often do not act unless compelled by higher authorities. In Dr. Laishram's case, her university refused to update her educational records citing procedural hurdles – symptomatic of a systemic malaise. Administrators routinely defer to the most restrictive reading of procedure rather than the spirit of the law. In the present matter, the university and education boards insisted that corrections must begin with the earliest certificate, qualifying recognition on a cascading set of bureaucratic approvals.

Where the law envisages gender as a matter of self-determination for transgender individuals, many officials remain wedded to the binary markers assigned at birth, and the mismatch translates into a stunted application of a simple idea. The insistence on sequential corrections or elaborate justifications is essentially a refusal to accept that gender identity is not derived from paperwork. Dr. Laishram's struggle also shows how institutional reluctance to operationalise this principle forces transpersons into prolonged legal contests over what should be routine matters. Such episodes reveal a troubling truth: transpersons, navigating stigma and discrimination, are forced to expend disproportionate time and resources to access rights that are legally theirs. The High Court judgment is undoubtedly positive: it also sets a precedent that may help other transpersons and signals to administrators that procedural rigidity cannot override constitutional and statutory guarantees. Bridging the gap between legal rights and their application will require both institutional reform and cultural change within the bureaucracy that draw from an understanding of gender as lived reality.

Punishing process

दंडात्मक प्रक्रिया

- **Gender identity recognition must not be trapped in bureaucratic hurdles**
लैंगिक पहचान की मान्यता को नौकरशाही बाधाओं में फँसना नहीं चाहिए

Manipur High Court order and Transgender Rights मणिपुर उच्च न्यायालय का आदेश और ट्रांसजेंडर अधिकार

- The **Manipur High Court's order** to the State to issue fresh academic certificates to **Beoncy Laishram** is at once a matter of **individual justice** and a larger commentary on the state of **transgender rights**.

मणिपुर उच्च न्यायालय का आदेश राज्य को **बियोसी लैशराम** को नए शैक्षणिक प्रमाणपत्र जारी करने के लिए, एक ओर **व्यक्तिगत न्याय** का मामला है और दूसरी ओर **ट्रांसजेंडर अधिकारों** की स्थिति पर एक बड़ी टिप्पणी है।

- What should have been a simple administrative correction became a **legal battle**, not because the law lacks provisions but because its implementation remains frustrated by **inertia** and **bureaucratic rigidity**.

जो केवल एक साधारण प्रशासनिक सुधार होना चाहिए था, वह एक **कानूनी लड़ाई** बन गया, इसका कारण कानून में प्रावधानों की कमी नहीं बल्कि **जड़ता** और **नौकरशाही की कठोरता** है।

- In **NALSA vs Union of India**, the **Supreme Court** recognised the **right to self-identify gender** and ordered the **state to treat transpersons as socially and educationally backward classes entitled to welfare measures**.

NALSA बनाम भारत संघ में, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने **स्व-पहचान का अधिकार** मान्यता दी और राज्य को निर्देश दिया कि **ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों** को **सामाजिक और शैक्षणिक रूप से पिछड़ा वर्ग** मानकर **कल्याणकारी उपायों** का अधिकार दिया जाए।

- The principle was codified in the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019**, which obligated authorities to recognise a person's **self-identified gender** and issue official documents.

यह सिद्धांत **ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन्स (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) अधिनियम 2019** में संहिताबद्ध किया गया, जिसने अधिकारियों को व्यक्ति की **स्व-पहचानी गई लैंगिक पहचान** को मान्यता देने और आधिकारिक दस्तावेज जारी करने के लिए बाध्य किया।

- Together with **Articles 14 and 21** of the Constitution, **transpersons** are thus entitled to having their affirmed identity seamlessly recognised in all institutional records.



संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14 और 21 के साथ मिलकर, ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों को अपनी स्वीकृत पहचान को सभी संस्थागत रिकॉर्ड में सहज रूप से मान्यता पाने का अधिकार है।

- Yet, their lived reality is very different. Despite the law being clear on self-identification, **bureaucratic setups** often do not act unless compelled by higher authorities.
फिर भी उनकी **जीवन वास्तविकता** बहुत अलग है। स्व-पहचान पर कानून स्पष्ट होने के बावजूद, **नौकरशाही तंत्र** अक्सर तब तक कार्य नहीं करता जब तक उच्च अधिकारी मजबूर न करें।
- In **Dr. Laishram's case**, her **university refused** to update her educational records citing **procedural hurdles** — symptomatic of a **systemic malaise**.
डॉ. लैशराम के मामले में, उनकी **विश्वविद्यालय** ने **प्रक्रियात्मक बाधाओं** का हवाला देते हुए उनके शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड को अपडेट करने से इनकार कर दिया — जो एक **प्रणालीगत बीमारी** का लक्षण है।
- Administrators routinely defer to the most restrictive reading of procedure rather than the **spirit of the law**.
प्रशासक अक्सर कानून की **भावना** के बजाय प्रक्रिया की सबसे प्रतिबंधात्मक व्याख्या का सहारा लेते हैं।
- In the present matter, the university and education boards insisted that **corrections** must begin with the **earliest certificate**, qualifying recognition on a **cascading set of bureaucratic approvals**.
वर्तमान मामले में, विश्वविद्यालय और शिक्षा बोर्डों ने जोर दिया कि **सुधार** सबसे पुराने प्रमाणपत्र से शुरू होने चाहिए और मान्यता केवल **नौकरशाही अनुमोदनों की परतदार प्रक्रिया** से मिल सकती है।
- Where the law envisages **gender as self-determination**, many officials remain wedded to **binary markers** assigned at birth, leading to stunted application of a simple idea.
जहां कानून **लैंगिक पहचान को स्व-निर्धारण** के रूप में देखता है, वहीं कई अधिकारी जन्म पर निर्धारित **द्विआधारी संकेतकों** से जुड़े रहते हैं, जिससे एक साधारण विचार का सीमित अनुप्रयोग होता है।
- The insistence on sequential corrections or elaborate justifications is essentially a **refusal to accept that gender identity is not derived from paperwork**.
क्रमिक सुधारों या विस्तृत औचित्यों पर जोर देना मूलतः यह **स्वीकार करने से इनकार** करना है कि **लैंगिक पहचान कागजी कार्यवाही से प्राप्त नहीं होती**।
- **Dr. Laishram's struggle** shows how institutional reluctance forces **transpersons** into prolonged **legal contests** over what should be routine matters.
डॉ. लैशराम का संघर्ष दर्शाता है कि संस्थागत अनिच्छा कैसे **ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों** को साधारण मामलों के लिए लंबे **कानूनी संघर्षों** में धकेल देती है।
- Such episodes reveal a troubling truth: **transpersons**, navigating **stigma** and **discrimination**, are forced to expend **disproportionate time and resources** to access rights that are legally theirs.
ऐसे घटनाक्रम एक चिंताजनक सत्य को उजागर करते हैं: **ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्ति**, जो **कलंक** और **भेदभाव** से जूझते हैं, उन्हें अपने कानूनी अधिकारों तक पहुँचने के लिए **अत्यधिक समय और संसाधन** खर्च करने पड़ते हैं।
- The **High Court judgment** is undoubtedly positive: it also sets a **precedent** that may help other **transpersons** and signals to administrators that **procedural rigidity cannot override constitutional guarantees**.
उच्च न्यायालय का निर्णय निस्संदेह सकारात्मक है: यह एक **नजीर** भी स्थापित करता है जो अन्य **ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों** की मदद कर सकता है और प्रशासकों को यह संकेत देता है कि **प्रक्रियात्मक कठोरता संवैधानिक गारंटियों से ऊपर नहीं हो सकती**।
- Bridging the gap between **legal rights** and their application will require both **institutional reform** and **cultural change** within the bureaucracy based on an understanding of **gender as lived reality**.
कानूनी अधिकारों और उनके अनुप्रयोग के बीच की खाई को पाटने के लिए **संस्थागत सुधार** और **नौकरशाही में सांस्कृतिक परिवर्तन** दोनों की आवश्यकता होगी, जो **लैंगिक पहचान को जीवन की वास्तविकता** के रूप में समझने पर आधारित हो।

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

1. Bills to oust arrested Ministers trigger chaos गिरफ्तार मंत्रियों को हटाने वाले विधेयक से हंगामा



2. **Are elected State govts. at mercy of Governors' whims and fancies, SC asks Centre**
क्या निर्वाचित राज्य सरकारें राज्यपालों की मनमानी और सनक पर निर्भर हैं, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र से पूछा
3. **HC refuses closure of slaughterhouses for 9 days during Jain festival**
जैन पर्व के दौरान 9 दिनों के लिए स्लॉटरहाउस बंद करने से हाईकोर्ट ने इनकार किया
4. **Protest erupts in Diphu against Assam govt.'s move to transfer tribal land to corporate houses**
असम सरकार द्वारा जनजातीय भूमि को कॉर्पोरेट घरानों को सौंपने के कदम के खिलाफ डिफू में विरोध प्रदर्शन भड़का
5. **In Moscow, Jaishankar flags challenges that tariffs pose to India-Russia trade**
मॉस्को में, जयशंकर ने भारत-रूस व्यापार पर टैरिफ द्वारा उत्पन्न चुनौतियों को रेखांकित किया
6. **The fact is the ECI is a commission in crisis**
सच्चाई यह है कि चुनाव आयोग (ECI) एक संकटग्रस्त आयोग है
7. **A historic move, but still unequal**
एक ऐतिहासिक कदम, लेकिन अब भी असमान
8. **What are 'machine readable' electoral rolls?**
'मशीन रीडेबल' निर्वाचक नामावलियां क्या हैं?
9. **U.S. imposes new sanctions on ICC officials over Israel**
अमेरिका ने इज़राइल को लेकर ICC अधिकारियों पर नए प्रतिबंध लगाए



Bills to oust arrested Ministers trigger chaos

The Bills were referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 LS and 10 RS members

The Union government says the pieces of legislation are intended to bring 'morality back into politics'

Amit Shah and Venugopal engage in sharp exchange over the former's arrest in 2010

SS II: Disqualification
Sandeep Phukan
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Opposition and ruling party MPs exchanged barbs in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday over the government's claim of bringing in political morality through three new Bills allowing the removal of elected representatives arrested on serious criminal charges.

As the Bills were introduced, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader K.C. Venugopal engaged in a sharp spat over Mr. Shah's 2010 arrest while he was Home Minister of Gujarat.

Trinamool Congress MPs escalated their protest by tearing copies of the proposed legislation in front of Mr. Shah's seat, resulting in a brief jostle between Opposition and rul-

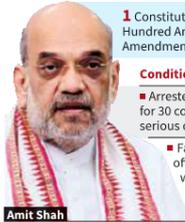
ing party MPs. BJP members, including Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Ravneet Singh Bittu, stepped in to shield Mr. Shah, while the Trinamool accused the Ministers of "pushing and shoving" women MPs.

As the Home Minister introduced the three Bills, Opposition MPs shouted that they were "unconstitutional and anti-federal". A resolution was passed by a voice vote to refer them to a Joint Committee of Parliament that will have 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. The Committee has been mandated to submit its report to the House by the Winter Session.

The three Bills are the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Bills in focus

The three Bills tabled by the Home Minister propose the removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers under certain conditions



Amit Shah

1 Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025

Conditions for removal:

Arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges

Facing charges of offences punishable with imprisonment of five years or more

2 Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Removal authority:

The President (for PM and Union Ministers)

Governors (for CMs and State Ministers)

Lieutenant-Governors (for Ministers in Union Territories)

3 Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Additional provision:

The legislation allows for the possibility of reappointment once the detained Minister or Chief Minister is released

2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The Bills propose that any Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, or Ministers who are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days without obtaining bail, on charges of committing an offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more, shall be removed from office by the

31st day. For example, the Prime Minister in this situation can be removed by the President, or a Chief Minister by the Governor of the State, if they do not resign on their own.

'Return to medieval era'
Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, speaking at an event to felicitate the joint Opposition Vice-Presidential can-

didate, said the Bills would take the country back to "medieval times when the King could remove anybody at will".

He explained how the proposed legislation could be used. "He tells ED to put a case and a democratically elected person is wiped out within 30 days," Mr. Gandhi said.

As soon as the Bills were tabled in the Lok Sabha at

2:00 p.m., the House witnessed uproarious scenes as Opposition members trooped into the well, raising slogans. Opposition MPs, including the AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress MPs Manish Tewari and Mr. Venugopal, opposed the introduction of the Bills, saying that they were against the Constitution and federalism.

Political morality

"Leaders of the BJP are saying that this Bill is to bring morality into politics. Can I ask the Home Minister a question? When he was the Home Minister of Gujarat, he was arrested. Did he uphold morality at that time?" Mr. Venugopal asked.

Mr. Shah promptly responded by accusing the then-Congress government at the Centre of levelling false allegations.

"I want to set the record straight. Fake allegations were levelled against me, but despite that, I abided by morality and ethics and not only resigned but did not accept any constitutional post until I was cleared of all charges," the Home Minister said.

"The Constitution is being amended to turn this country into a police state," warned Mr. Owaisi.

"The Bill opens the door for political misuse," said Mr. Tewari.

Accusing the government of bringing the Bills in "undue haste", Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premchandran said, "These Bills are not being introduced as per the procedures of the House... They have not even been circulated to members."

RAHUL SLAMS BILLS
» PAGE 5

Bills to oust arrested Ministers trigger chaos गिरफ्तार मंत्रियों को हटाने वाले विधेयक से हंगामा

The Bills were referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 LS and 10 RS members.

विधेयक को संसद की संयुक्त समिति को भेजा गया जिसमें 21 लोकसभा और 10 राज्यसभा सदस्य शामिल हैं।

- The Union government says the pieces of legislation are intended to bring 'morality back into politics'.
केंद्र सरकार का कहना है कि यह विधेयक राजनीति में 'नैतिकता वापस लाने' के लिए लाया गया है।
- Amit Shah and Venugopal engage in sharp exchange over the former's arrest in 2010.
अमित शाह और वेणुगोपाल के बीच उनकी 2010 की गिरफ्तारी पर तीखी बहस हुई।
- Opposition and ruling party MPs exchanged barbs in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday over the government's claim of bringing in political morality through three new Bills allowing the removal of elected representatives arrested on serious criminal charges.
बुधवार को लोकसभा में विपक्ष और सत्तापक्ष के सांसदों ने सरकार के इस दावे पर तीखी बहस की कि तीन नए विधेयकों के माध्यम से राजनीतिक नैतिकता लाई जाएगी जो गंभीर अपराधिक आरोपों में गिरफ्तार निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों को हटाने की अनुमति देते हैं।
- As the Bills were introduced, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader K.C. Venugopal engaged in a sharp spat over Mr. Shah's 2010 arrest while he was Home Minister of Gujarat.
जैसे ही विधेयक पेश किए गए, केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शाह और कांग्रेस नेता के.सी. वेणुगोपाल के बीच शाह की 2010 की गिरफ्तारी को लेकर तीखी बहस हुई जब वे गुजरात के गृहमंत्री थे।
- Trinamool Congress MPs escalated their protest by tearing copies of the proposed legislation in front of Mr. Shah's seat, resulting in a brief jostle between Opposition and ruling party MPs.
तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसदों ने शाह की सीट के सामने प्रस्तावित विधेयक की प्रतियां फाड़कर अपना विरोध तेज कर दिया, जिससे विपक्ष और सत्तापक्ष सांसदों के बीच धक्का-मुक्की हुई।



- BJP members, including Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Ravneet Singh Bittu, stepped in to shield Mr. Shah, while the Trinamool accused the Ministers of “pushing and shoving” women MPs.
भाजपा सांसदों, जिनमें केंद्रीय मंत्री किरिन रिजिजू और रवनीत सिंह बिट्टू शामिल थे, ने शाह की रक्षा की, जबकि तृणमूल ने मंत्रियों पर महिला सांसदों को “धक्का-मुक्की” करने का आरोप लगाया।
- As the Home Minister introduced the three Bills, Opposition MPs shouted that they were “unconstitutional and anti-federal”.
जब गृहमंत्री ने तीन विधेयक पेश किए तो विपक्षी सांसदों ने इन्हें “असंवैधानिक और संघ-विरोधी” बताया।
- A resolution was passed by a voice vote to refer them to a Joint Committee of Parliament that will have 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. The Committee has been mandated to submit its report to the House by the Winter Session.
एक मताभिव्यक्ति से यह निर्णय हुआ कि इन्हें संसद की संयुक्त समिति को भेजा जाए जिसमें लोकसभा के 21 और राज्यसभा के 10 सदस्य होंगे। समिति को शीतकालीन सत्र तक सदन में रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का आदेश दिया गया।
- The three Bills are the **Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025**.
तीन विधेयक हैं—सरकार का केंद्र शासित प्रदेश (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025; संविधान (एक सौ तीसवां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025; और जम्मू और कश्मीर पुनर्गठन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025।
- The Bills propose that any Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, or Ministers who are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days without obtaining bail, on charges of committing an offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more, shall be removed from office by the 31st day.
विधेयक में प्रावधान है कि कोई भी प्रधानमंत्री, मुख्यमंत्री या मंत्री जिसे लगातार 30 दिनों तक बिना जमानत के हिरासत में रखा गया हो और जिस पर 5 साल या उससे अधिक की सजा वाले अपराध का आरोप हो, उसे 31वें दिन पद से हटा दिया जाएगा।
- For example, the Prime Minister in this situation can be removed by the President, or a Chief Minister by the Governor of the State, if they do not resign on their own.
उदाहरण के लिए, ऐसी स्थिति में प्रधानमंत्री को राष्ट्रपति द्वारा या मुख्यमंत्री को राज्यपाल द्वारा हटाया जा सकता है यदि वे स्वयं इस्तीफा नहीं देते।
- ‘Return to medieval era’
‘मध्यकालीन युग में वापसी’
- Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, speaking at an event to felicitate the joint Opposition Vice-Presidential candidate, said the Bills would take the country back to “medieval times when the King could remove anybody at will”.
विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी, संयुक्त विपक्ष उपराष्ट्रपति उम्मीदवार का सम्मान करने के एक कार्यक्रम में बोलते हुए, ने कहा कि विधेयक देश को “उस मध्यकालीन समय में ले जाएंगे जब राजा किसी को भी अपनी इच्छा से हटा सकता था”।
- He explained how the proposed legislation could be used. “He tells ED to put a case and a democratically elected person is wiped out within 30 days,” Mr. Gandhi said.
उन्होंने बताया कि प्रस्तावित कानून का कैसे दुरुपयोग हो सकता है। “वह ईडी को केस डालने को कहता है और एक लोकतांत्रिक तरीके से चुना गया व्यक्ति 30 दिनों में हटा दिया जाता है,” गांधी ने कहा।
- As soon as the Bills were tabled in the Lok Sabha at 2:00 p.m., the House witnessed uproarious scenes as Opposition members trooped into the well, raising slogans.
जैसे ही विधेयक दोपहर 2:00 बजे लोकसभा में पेश किए गए, विपक्षी सदस्य नारे लगाते हुए वेल में आ गए और सदन में हंगामा मच गया।
- Opposition MPs, including the AIMIM’s Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress MPs Manish Tewari and Mr. Venugopal, opposed the introduction of the Bills, saying that they were against the Constitution and federalism.
विपक्षी सांसदों, जिनमें एआईएमआईएम के असदुद्दीन ओवैसी और कांग्रेस सांसद मनीष तिवारी तथा वेणुगोपाल शामिल थे, ने विधेयकों के पेश होने का विरोध किया और कहा कि ये संविधान और संघीय ढांचे के खिलाफ हैं।
- Political morality
राजनीतिक नैतिकता
- “Leaders of the BJP are saying that this Bill is to bring morality into politics. Can I ask the Home Minister a question? When he was the Home Minister of Gujarat, he was arrested. Did he uphold morality at that time?” Mr. Venugopal asked.



“भाजपा के नेता कह रहे हैं कि यह विधेयक राजनीति में नैतिकता लाने के लिए है। क्या मैं गृहमंत्री से एक सवाल पूछ सकता हूँ? जब वे गुजरात के गृहमंत्री थे, तब उन्हें गिरफ्तार किया गया था। क्या उन्होंने उस समय नैतिकता का पालन किया था?” वेणुगोपाल ने पूछा।

- Mr. Shah promptly responded by accusing the then-Congress government at the Centre of leveling false allegations.
श्री शाह ने तुरंत जवाब देते हुए उस समय की कांग्रेस सरकार पर झूठे आरोप लगाने का आरोप लगाया।
- “I want to set the record straight. Fake allegations were levelled against me, but despite that, I abided by morality and ethics and not only resigned but did not accept any constitutional post until I was cleared of all charges,” the Home Minister said.
“मैं रिकॉर्ड को साफ करना चाहता हूँ। मेरे खिलाफ झूठे आरोप लगाए गए, लेकिन इसके बावजूद मैंने नैतिकता और आचारनीति का पालन किया और न केवल इस्तीफा दिया बल्कि तब तक कोई संवैधानिक पद स्वीकार नहीं किया जब तक कि मैं सभी आरोपों से मुक्त नहीं हुआ,” गृहमंत्री ने कहा।
- “The Constitution is being amended to turn this country into a police state,” warned Mr. Owaisi.
“संविधान में संशोधन करके इस देश को पुलिस राज्य में बदला जा रहा है,” ओवैसी ने चेतावनी दी।
- “The Bill opens the door for political misuse,” said Mr. Tewari.
“यह विधेयक राजनीतिक दुरुपयोग का दरवाजा खोलता है,” तिवारी ने कहा।
- Accusing the government of bringing the Bills in “undue haste”, Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premchandran said, “These Bills are not being introduced as per the procedures of the House... They have not even been circulated to members.”
सरकार पर “अनावश्यक जल्दबाज़ी” में विधेयक लाने का आरोप लगाते हुए, क्रांतिकारी सोशलिस्ट पार्टी के सांसद एन.के. प्रेमचंद्रन ने कहा, “ये विधेयक सदन की प्रक्रियाओं के अनुसार पेश नहीं किए गए हैं... इन्हें सदस्यों तक पहुंचाया तक नहीं गया है।”

Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Amends the **Government of Union Territories Act, 1963**.
- Applies mainly to **Puducherry**, which is the only UT (besides Delhi and J&K separately covered) with an elected legislature.

Key Provisions

- If a **Chief Minister or Minister** of a UT is **detained for 30 consecutive days** for a serious criminal offence (punishable with 5 years or more), their **office automatically ceases**.
- The **Administrator (Lieutenant Governor)** must remove them, or else the **removal takes effect automatically**.
- Aim: To ensure that **leaders facing grave charges cannot govern from jail**.

Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Amends **Articles 75, 164, and 239AA** of the Constitution.
- Covers the **Prime Minister, Union Ministers, State Chief Ministers, State Ministers, and Delhi's elected government**.



Key Provisions

- **Article 75:** Prime Minister or Union Ministers lose office if detained for 30 consecutive days.
- **Article 164:** Same provision extended to **State Chief Ministers and State Ministers**. The Governor must remove them; if not, their post ceases automatically.
- **Article 239AA:** Applies the same rule to the **Delhi Government** (Chief Minister and Ministers).

Special Feature

- Removal happens **without conviction**—detention itself is enough.
- Leaders can be **reappointed after release**, but they cannot hold office during detention.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Amends the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, which had split the state into UT of **Jammu & Kashmir (with legislature)** and **UT of Ladakh (without legislature)** on 31 October 2019.

Key Provisions

- Provides a **legal mechanism** for removal of the **Chief Minister or Minister of J&K** if detained for **30 consecutive days** on serious criminal charges.
- Aligns J&K governance rules with those of States and Puducherry.

Common Legislative Intent of All Three Bills

- **Integrity in Public Life:** Prevent governance by leaders from jail.
- **Uniform Mechanism:** Establish the same rule across **Centre, States, and UTs**.
- **Public Trust:** Strengthen people's faith in constitutional offices.
- **Constitutional Morality:** Bring elected leaders to the same accountability standard as civil servants, who are suspended when detained.



Are elected State govts. at mercy of Governors' whims and fancies, SC asks Centre

+

Are elected State govts. at mercy of Governors' whims and fancies, SC asks Centre क्या निर्वाचित राज्य सरकारें राज्यपालों की मनमानी और सनक पर निर्भर हैं, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र से पूछा

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre if elected State governments were at the mercy of the whims and fancies of Governors, who could fail Bills by merely withholding assent.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को केंद्र से पूछा कि क्या निर्वाचित राज्य सरकारें राज्यपालों की मनमानी और सनक पर निर्भर हैं, जो केवल मंजूरी रोककर विधेयकों को असफल कर सकते हैं।

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre if elected State governments were at the mercy of the whims and fancies of Governors, who could fail Bills by merely withholding assent.

A Presidential Reference Bench headed by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai was examining a submission by the Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and advocate Kanu Agarwal, that State Bills would lapse if Governors withheld assent to proposed laws presented to them for approval under Article 200 of the Constitution.

"So, are Governors being given total powers to sit in appeal over the elected representatives? This way, if Bills are failed by Governors, governments formed by majority will be at the mercy of their whims and fancies," Chief Justice Gavai quizzed Mr. Mehta's interpretation of Article 200.

'To be used sparingly'

Mr. Mehta said the power of a Governor to withhold assent was meant to be used sparingly, especially when a State Bill frustrated the very democratic will of the nation, or violated fundamental rights.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal interjected to point out that if a Governor had the power to lapse a Bill by withholding assent, the same logic would apply to the President of India under Article III.

"The President can also withhold and fail Bills passed in Parliament," Mr. Sibal submitted.

The Solicitor General argued that a Governor had



Are Governors
being given total powers to sit in appeal over the elected representatives?

B.R. GAVAI
Chief Justice of India

"four" options under Article 200. Besides the options of granting assent to the Bill, withholding assent to the Bill due to which the proposed law lapses, and reserving the Bill for consideration to the President in the substantive part of the Constitutional provision, the proviso to the Article allowed the Governor to exercise a "fourth" option, that is, to return the Bill to the State Legislative Assembly. If the Assembly re-passed the Bill, the Governor would be bound to grant assent, the law officer contended. In such cases, the Governor could not withhold the Bill, though he could refer it to the President on the ground of repugnancy.

'Not a sanctum'

High Constitutional authorities, including the President and Governors, were presumed to act within the law and uphold the dignity of their offices, Mr. Mehta said. Governors were not "nobodies", he submitted. They were representatives of the President, who was bound by the aid and advice of the Union Cabinet, which represented the interests of the nation. "Go-

vernorship is not a sanctum for retired politicians," Mr. Mehta said.

But the Chief Justice asked the Solicitor General whether, over the years, the expectations of the Founding Fathers and Mothers regarding these Constitutional functionalities had actually been fulfilled.

Justice Narasimha reasoned that Constitutional interpretation by courts could not be idealistic. Judicial review had to take into account the present-day realities. Governors and Speakers were idealistically considered high offices, presumed to function within the law, but the flood of litigation said otherwise.

The judge referred to the cases filed in the top court under the anti-defection law (the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution).

The Tenth Schedule was introduced with the best intentions and with ideal expectations about the high office of the Speaker, Justice Narasimha said. But views had changed over the years.

"Constitutional interpretation cannot be static," Justice Narasimha observed.

Mr. Mehta enumerated instances when Governors were not bound by the aid and advice of the State Cabinet.

"We have seen how, in some cases, the Governors have exercised their discretion and end up in litigation in the top court," the CJI responded.

The Solicitor General dismissed them as "aberrations". It was "hazardous to interpret the Constitution based on aberrations", Mr. Mehta said.

This way, if Bills are failed by Governors, governments formed by majority will be at the mercy of their whims and fancies," Chief Justice Gavai quizzed Mr. Mehta's interpretation of Article 200.

"तो क्या राज्यपालों को निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों के ऊपर अपील में बैठने की पूरी शक्ति दी जा रही है? इस तरह, यदि विधेयक राज्यपालों द्वारा अस्वीकार कर दिए जाते हैं, तो बहुमत से बनी सरकारें उनकी मनमानी और सनक पर निर्भर हो जाएंगी," मुख्य न्यायाधीश गवई ने अनुच्छेद 200 की मेहता की व्याख्या पर सवाल उठाया।

'To be used sparingly'

'संयमपूर्वक उपयोग किया जाए'



- Mr. Mehta said the power of a Governor to withhold assent was meant to be used sparingly, especially when a State Bill frustrated the very democratic will of the nation, or violated fundamental rights.
श्री मेहता ने कहा कि राज्यपाल की स्वीकृति रोकने की शक्ति का उपयोग संयमपूर्वक किया जाना था, विशेषकर तब जब कोई राज्य विधेयक राष्ट्र की लोकतांत्रिक इच्छा को निराश करता है या मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करता है।
- Senior advocate **Kapil Sibal** interjected to point out that if a Governor had the power to lapse a Bill by withholding assent, the same logic would apply to the **President of India** under **Article 111**.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **कपिल सिबल** ने हस्तक्षेप करते हुए यह इंगित किया कि यदि राज्यपाल के पास मंजूरी रोककर किसी विधेयक को समाप्त करने की शक्ति है, तो वही तर्क भारत के **राष्ट्रपति** पर **अनुच्छेद 111** के तहत लागू होगा।
- "The President can also withhold and fail Bills passed in Parliament," Mr. Sibal submitted.
"राष्ट्रपति भी संसद में पारित विधेयकों को रोक सकते हैं और उन्हें असफल कर सकते हैं," श्री सिबल ने कहा।
- The Solicitor General argued that a Governor had "four" options under Article 200. Besides the options of granting assent to the Bill, **withholding assent to the Bill due to which the proposed law lapses**, and **reserving the Bill for consideration to the President in the substantive part of the Constitutional provision**, the **proviso to the Article allowed the Governor to exercise a "fourth" option, that is, to return the Bill to the State Legislative Assembly**. If the Assembly re-passed the Bill, the Governor would be bound to grant assent, the law officer contended. In such cases, the Governor could not withhold the Bill, though he could refer it to the President on the ground of **repugnancy**.
सॉलिसिटर जनरल ने तर्क दिया कि राज्यपाल के पास अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत "चार" विकल्प होते हैं। विधेयक को मंजूरी देने, विधेयक की मंजूरी रोकने जिससे प्रस्तावित कानून समाप्त हो जाता है, और विधेयक को राष्ट्रपति के विचारार्थ सुरक्षित रखने के विकल्पों के अलावा, अनुच्छेद के प्रावधान ने राज्यपाल को एक "चौथा" विकल्प दिया, अर्थात् विधेयक को राज्य विधानसभा को लौटाना। यदि विधानसभा ने विधेयक को फिर से पारित कर दिया, तो राज्यपाल को मंजूरी देने के लिए बाध्य होना पड़ेगा, कानून अधिकारी ने तर्क दिया। ऐसे मामलों में, राज्यपाल विधेयक को रोक नहीं सकते, हालांकि वे उसे **असंगति** के आधार पर राष्ट्रपति को भेज सकते हैं।

'Not a sanctum' 'कोई पवित्र स्थान नहीं'

- High Constitutional authorities, including the **President and Governors**, were presumed to act within the law and uphold the dignity of their offices, Mr. Mehta said. Governors were not "nobodies", he submitted. They were representatives of the President, who was bound by the aid and advice of the **Union Cabinet**, which represented the interests of the nation.
"Governorship is not a sanctum for retired politicians," Mr. Mehta said.
श्री मेहता ने कहा कि **राष्ट्रपति** और **राज्यपालों** सहित उच्च संवैधानिक प्राधिकरणों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे कानून के भीतर कार्य करें और अपने पदों की गरिमा बनाए रखें। राज्यपाल "कोई नहीं" नहीं हैं, उन्होंने कहा। वे राष्ट्रपति के प्रतिनिधि हैं, जो राष्ट्र के हितों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाली **केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल** की सलाह और सहायता से बंधे हैं। **"राज्यपाल का पद सेवानिवृत्त राजनेताओं के लिए कोई पवित्र स्थान नहीं है,"** श्री मेहता ने कहा।
- But the Chief Justice asked the Solicitor General whether, over the years, the expectations of the Founding Fathers and Mothers regarding these Constitutional functionaries had actually been fulfilled.
लेकिन मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने सॉलिसिटर जनरल से पूछा कि क्या वर्षों के दौरान इन संवैधानिक पदाधिकारियों के संबंध में **संविधान निर्माताओं** की अपेक्षाएं वास्तव में पूरी हुई हैं।
- Justice **Narasimha** reasoned that Constitutional interpretation by courts could not be idealistic. Judicial review had to take into account the present-day realities. Governors and Speakers were idealistically considered high offices, presumed to function within the law, but the flood of litigation said otherwise.
न्यायमूर्ति **नरसिम्हा** ने तर्क दिया कि अदालतों द्वारा संवैधानिक व्याख्या आदर्शवादी नहीं हो सकती। न्यायिक पुनरावलोकन को वर्तमान वास्तविकताओं को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए। राज्यपालों और सभापतियों को आदर्श रूप से उच्च पदों पर माना गया था, जिन्हें कानून के भीतर कार्य करना माना जाता था, लेकिन मुकदमों की बाढ़ कुछ और कहती है।
- The judge referred to the cases filed in the top court under the **anti-defection law (the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution)**.



न्यायाधीश ने विरोधी दल-बदल कानून (संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची) के तहत सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में दायर मामलों का हवाला दिया।

- The Tenth Schedule was introduced with the best intentions and with ideal expectations about the high office of the Speaker, Justice Narasimha said. But views had changed over the years.

न्यायमूर्ति नरसिम्हा ने कहा कि दसवीं अनुसूची को सर्वोत्तम इरादों और सभापति के उच्च पद के बारे में आदर्श अपेक्षाओं के साथ पेश किया गया था। लेकिन वर्षों में विचार बदल गए।

- “Constitutional interpretation cannot be static,” Justice Narasimha observed.
“संवैधानिक व्याख्या स्थिर नहीं हो सकती,” न्यायमूर्ति नरसिम्हा ने कहा।
- Mr. Mehta enumerated instances when Governors were not bound by the aid and advice of the State Cabinet.

श्री मेहता ने उन उदाहरणों की गिनती की जब राज्यपाल राज्य मंत्रिमंडल की सलाह और सहायता से बंधे नहीं थे।

- “We have seen how, in some cases, the Governors have exercised their discretion and end up in litigation in the top court,” the CJI responded.
“हमने देखा है कि कुछ मामलों में, राज्यपालों ने अपने विवेक का उपयोग किया और सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में मुकदमेबाजी में फंस गए,” मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने जवाब दिया।

- The Solicitor General dismissed them as “aberrations”. It was “hazardous to interpret the Constitution based on aberrations”, Mr. Mehta said.

सॉलिसिटर जनरल ने उन्हें “अपवाद” कहकर खारिज कर दिया। संविधान की व्याख्या को अपवादों के आधार पर करना “खतरनाक” है, श्री मेहता ने कहा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Uttarakhand Assembly clears amendments to UCC, anti-conversion Bills

5-day session ends in two days; House adjourned sine die amid Oppn. protests seeking debate on disaster management, law and order situation; 9 Bills, including on minority education, get passage

GS II: DPSP

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In a stormy Monsoon Session marked by protests, the Uttarakhand Assembly on Wednesday cleared nine key Bills, including amendments to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion (Amendment) Bill, and the Minority Education Bill.

The five-day session that began on August 19 at Gairsain, the State's summer capital, concluded sine die within two days, with the Opposition demanding a debate on the State's disaster management and law and order situation under Rule 310, citing the flash floods in Dharali, where 68 people are still missing, and the alleged abduction of five Congress panchayat members during the recent panchayat polls.

The Uniform Civil Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 introduced changes to the UCC, which came into force earlier this year. Key



The five-day Monsoon Session of the Assembly began on August 19 at Gairsain, the summer capital of Uttarakhand. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

amendments included increasing the punishment for those in illegal live-in relationships and extending the registration period for marriage from six months to one year.

Stricter penalty

The Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was also passed, allowing jail sentences ranging from three years to life imprisonment for individuals found guilty of forced conversions. Previously, the maximum jail term for forced conversion was 10 years.

The Bill defines "allurement" as any "gift, gratification, easy money, or material benefit, whether in cash or kind, employment, or by invoking divine displeasure". Human trafficking and threats to life would attract jail terms from 20 years to life imprisonment under the Bill.

The Minority Education Bill, 2025 faced the most opposition but was eventually passed. It aims to extend benefits of minority status to educational institutions run by Sikh, Jain, Christian, Parsi, and Buddhist communities.

With passage of the Bill,

all madrasas in the State will have to seek affiliation with the Uttarakhand Education Board by July 1, 2026, and apply for minority status with the Uttarakhand State Authority for Minority Education. Only if the conditions are fulfilled will the institution be granted minority educational status; otherwise, all unrecognised madrasas will be shut down.

During the session, the Assembly also cleared the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025, the Uttarakhand-Uttar Pradesh Shri Badrinath and Shri Kedarnath Temples (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Uttarakhand Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Uttarakhand Witness Protection Repeal Bill, 2025, the Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Uttarakhand Loktantra Senani Samman Bill, 2025.

Supplementary demands of ₹5,315.37 crore from grants for 2025-26 were passed by voice vote without discussion.

Uttarakhand Assembly clears amendments to UCC, anti-conversion Bills



उत्तराखंड विधानसभा ने यूसीसी, धर्मांतरण विरोधी विधेयकों में संशोधन पारित किए

5-day session ends in two days; House **adjourned sine-die** amid Oppn. protests seeking debate on disaster management, law and order situation; 9 Bills, including on minority education, get passage

5-दिवसीय सत्र दो दिन में समाप्त; आपदा प्रबंधन, कानून-व्यवस्था पर बहस की मांग को लेकर विपक्ष के विरोध के बीच सदन अनिश्चितकाल के लिए स्थगित; अल्पसंख्यक शिक्षा से जुड़े 9 विधेयक पारित

- In a stormy Monsoon Session marked by protests, the **Uttarakhand Assembly** on Wednesday cleared nine key Bills, including amendments to the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, the **Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion (Amendment) Bill**, and the **Minority Education Bill**.

विरोध प्रदर्शनों से घिरे एक तूफानी मानसून सत्र में बुधवार को उत्तराखंड विधानसभा ने नौ प्रमुख विधेयक पारित किए, जिनमें **समान नागरिक संहिता (यूसीसी)** में संशोधन, **धर्म की स्वतंत्रता एवं अवैध धर्मांतरण निषेध (संशोधन) विधेयक**, और **अल्पसंख्यक शिक्षा विधेयक** शामिल हैं।

- The five-day session that began on **August 19** at **Gairsain**, the State's summer capital, concluded **sine die** within two days, with the Opposition demanding a debate on the State's disaster management and law and order situation under **Rule 310**, citing the **flash floods in Dharali**, where **68 people** are still missing, and the alleged abduction of **five Congress panchayat members** during the recent panchayat polls.

19 अगस्त को राज्य की ग्रीष्मकालीन राजधानी **गैरसैण** में शुरू हुआ पांच दिवसीय सत्र दो दिनों के भीतर ही **अनिश्चितकाल के लिए स्थगित** कर दिया गया, विपक्ष ने **नियम 310** के तहत राज्य के आपदा प्रबंधन और कानून-व्यवस्था पर बहस की मांग की, **धराली में आई बाढ़** का हवाला दिया जहां अभी भी **68 लोग** लापता हैं और हालिया पंचायत चुनावों के दौरान **कांग्रेस के पांच पंचायत सदस्यों** के कथित अपहरण का मुद्दा उठाया।

- The **Uniform Civil Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025** introduced changes to the UCC, which came into force earlier this year. Key amendments included **increasing the punishment for those in illegal live-in relationships and extending the registration period for marriage from six months to one year**.

समान नागरिक संहिता (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 में इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में लागू हुई यूसीसी में बदलाव किया गया। प्रमुख संशोधनों में **अवैध लिव-इन संबंधों** में शामिल लोगों की सजा बढ़ाना और **विवाह पंजीकरण अवधि को छह महीने से एक वर्ष** करना शामिल है।

- Stricter penalty कड़ी सजा**
- The **Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion (Amendment) Bill, 2025** was also passed, **allowing jail sentences ranging from three years to life imprisonment for individuals found guilty of forced conversions**. Previously, the maximum jail term for forced conversion was **10 years**.

धर्म की स्वतंत्रता एवं अवैध धर्मांतरण निषेध (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 भी पारित हुआ, जिसमें **बलपूर्वक धर्मांतरण** के दोषियों के लिए **तीन साल से लेकर आजीवन कारावास** तक की सजा का प्रावधान किया गया। पहले बलपूर्वक धर्मांतरण की अधिकतम सजा **10 वर्ष** थी।

- The **Bill defines "allurement" as any "gift, gratification, easy money, or material benefit, whether in cash or kind, employment, or by invoking divine displeasure"**. **Human trafficking and threats to life** would attract jail terms from **20 years to life imprisonment** under the Bill.

विधेयक में **"प्रलोभन"** को किसी भी "उपहार, लाभ, आसान पैसा या भौतिक लाभ, चाहे नकद या वस्तु में, रोजगार या दिव्य अप्रसन्नता का हवाला देकर" परिभाषित किया गया है। **मानव तस्करी** और **जीवन के लिए खतरे** की स्थिति में **20 साल से लेकर आजीवन कारावास** की सजा का प्रावधान है।

- The **Minority Education Bill, 2025** faced the most opposition but was eventually passed. It **aims to extend benefits of minority status to educational institutions run by Sikh, Jain, Christian, Parsi, and Buddhist communities**.

अल्पसंख्यक शिक्षा विधेयक, 2025 को सबसे ज्यादा विरोध झेलना पड़ा लेकिन अंततः पारित हो गया। इसका



उद्देश्य सिख, जैन, ईसाई, पारसी और बौद्ध समुदायों द्वारा संचालित शैक्षणिक संस्थानों को अल्पसंख्यक दर्जे के लाभ देना है।

- With passage of the Bill, all **madrasas** in the State will have to seek **affiliation with the Uttarakhand Education Board by July 1, 2026**, and apply for **minority status** with the Uttarakhand State Authority for Minority Education. Only if the conditions are fulfilled will the institution be granted minority educational status; otherwise, all **unrecognised madrasas** will be shut down.
विधेयक पारित होने के साथ ही राज्य के सभी मदरसे को **1 जुलाई, 2026 तक उत्तराखंड शिक्षा बोर्ड से संबद्धता** लेनी होगी और उत्तराखंड राज्य अल्पसंख्यक शिक्षा प्राधिकरण से **अल्पसंख्यक दर्जे** के लिए आवेदन करना होगा। केवल शर्तें पूरी होने पर ही संस्थान को अल्पसंख्यक शैक्षिक दर्जा मिलेगा, अन्यथा सभी **अमान्यता प्राप्त मदरसे** बंद कर दिए जाएंगे।
- During the session, the Assembly also cleared the **Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025**, the **Uttarakhand-Uttar Pradesh Shri Badrinath and Shri Kedarnath Temples (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, the **Uttarakhand Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, the **Uttarakhand Witness Protection Repeal Bill, 2025**, the **Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, and the **Uttarakhand Loktantra Senani Samman Bill, 2025**.
सत्र के दौरान विधानसभा ने **अनुपूरक विनियोग विधेयक, 2025**, उत्तराखंड-उत्तर प्रदेश श्री बद्रीनाथ और श्री केदारनाथ मंदिर (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025, उत्तराखंड निजी विश्वविद्यालय (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025, उत्तराखंड गवाह संरक्षण निरसन विधेयक, 2025, उत्तराखंड पंचायती राज (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025, और उत्तराखंड लोकतंत्र सेनानी सम्मान विधेयक, 2025 को भी पारित किया।
- **Supplementary demands of ₹5,315.37 crore** from grants for 2025–26 were passed by **voice vote** without discussion.
2025–26 के लिए **₹5,315.37 करोड़** की अनुपूरक मांगों बिना चर्चा के ध्वनि मत से पारित की गई।

HC refuses closure of slaughterhouses for 9 days during Jain festival

GS II: FR

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday declined to grant urgent relief to Jain charitable trusts seeking a nine-day closure of slaughterhouses in Mumbai during the ongoing Jain festival, Paryushan Parv. The court said while it respects the community's sentiments, it cannot pass such an order without statutory backing.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Sandeep Marne was hearing a batch of petitions filed by Sheth Motishaw Lalbaug Jain Charities, Shwetambar Murtipujak Tapagachha Jain Sangh Trust, Sheth Bherulaji Ka-

niyalalji Kothari Religious Trust, and Shree Tapagachha Uday Kalyan Jain Shwetambar Murtipujak Trust challenging the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) August 14 order, which permits closure of slaughterhouses only on August 24 and August 27 (Ganesh Chaturthi).

"We respect your sentiments. But tell us, from where do you derive the right to ask for slaughterhouses to be closed for 10 days? You are seeking a writ of mandamus. For that, there has to be a mandate in law. Where is the law? Where does it say that that slaughterhouses must be closed for 10 days?" the Bench said.

HC refuses closure of slaughterhouses for 9 days during Jain festival

जैन पर्व के दौरान 9 दिनों के लिए स्लाटरहाउस बंद करने से हाईकोर्ट ने इनकार किया

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday declined to grant urgent relief to **Jain charitable trusts seeking a nine-day closure of slaughterhouses in Mumbai during the ongoing Jain festival, Paryushan Parv.**

बॉम्बे हाईकोर्ट ने बुधवार को जैन चैरिटेबल ट्रस्टों को तात्कालिक राहत देने से इनकार कर दिया, जिन्होंने मुंबई में चल रहे जैन पर्व पर्युषण पर्व के दौरान 9 दिनों तक स्लाटरहाउस बंद करने की मांग की थी।

- The court said while it respects the community's sentiments, it cannot pass such an order without **statutory backing.**

अदालत ने कहा कि वह समुदाय की भावनाओं का सम्मान करती है, लेकिन **कानूनी प्रावधान** के बिना ऐसा आदेश पारित नहीं कर सकती।



- A Division Bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Sandeep Marne was hearing a batch of petitions filed by Sheth Motishaw Lalbaug Jain Charities, Shwetambar Murtipujak Tapagachha Jain Sangh Trust, Sheth Bherulaji Kaniyalalji Kothari Religious Trust, and Shree Tapagachha Uday Kalyan Jain Shwetambar Murtipujak Trust challenging the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) August 14 order, which permits closure of slaughterhouses only on August 24 and August 27 (Ganesh Chaturthi).
मुख्य न्यायाधीश आलोक अराधे और न्यायमूर्ति संदीप मर्ने की डिवीजन बेंच ने उन याचिकाओं के समूह पर सुनवाई की, जिन्हें शेठ मोटीशाँ लालबाग जैन चैरिटीज़, श्वेतांबर मूर्तिपूजक तपागच्छ जैन संघ ट्रस्ट, शेठ भेरूलालजी कनियालालजी कोठारी धार्मिक ट्रस्ट और श्री तपागच्छ उदय कल्याण जैन श्वेतांबर मूर्तिपूजक ट्रस्ट ने दायर किया था। ये याचिकाएँ बृहन्मुंबई नगर निगम (बीएमसी) के 14 अगस्त के आदेश को चुनौती दे रही थीं, जिसमें स्लॉटरहाउस केवल 24 अगस्त और 27 अगस्त (गणेश चतुर्थी) को बंद करने की अनुमति दी गई थी।
- "We respect your sentiments. But tell us, from where do you derive the right to ask for slaughterhouses to be closed for 10 days? You are seeking a writ of mandamus. For that, there has to be a mandate in law. Where is the law? Where does it say that slaughterhouses must be closed for 10 days?" the Bench said.
"हम आपकी भावनाओं का सम्मान करते हैं। लेकिन बताइए, आपको कहाँ से यह अधिकार मिलता है कि आप स्लॉटरहाउस को 10 दिनों तक बंद करने की मांग करें? आप मैडमस रिट की मांग कर रहे हैं। इसके लिए कानून में एक स्पष्ट प्रावधान होना चाहिए। कानून कहाँ है? कहाँ लिखा है कि स्लॉटरहाउस 10 दिनों के लिए बंद किए जाएं?" बेंच ने कहा।

Mandamus

मैंडमस

- The term 'Mandamus' is a Latin word which means "We Command".
'मैंडमस' एक लैटिन शब्द है, जिसका अर्थ है "हम आदेश देते हैं"।
- It is a command issued by a court to a public authority, tribunal, corporation, or inferior court, compelling them to perform a duty which they are legally bound to do but have either refused or failed to perform.
यह एक आदेश है जो किसी न्यायालय द्वारा किसी सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरण, प्राधिकरण, निगम, या निचली अदालत को जारी किया जाता है, जिससे उन्हें ऐसा कर्तव्य निभाने के लिए बाध्य किया जाता है जिसे वे कानूनी रूप से करने के लिए बाध्य हैं, पर उन्होंने उसे नकार दिया है या पूरा नहीं किया है।
- It is a constitutional remedy available for the enforcement of fundamental rights and legal duties.
• यह मौलिक अधिकारों और कानूनी कर्तव्यों को लागू करने के लिए उपलब्ध एक संवैधानिक उपाय है।

Key Features of the Writ of Mandamus

मैंडमस रिट की प्रमुख विशेषताएं

- It is a command or order issued by a competent court to a public official or public body to perform a statutory or constitutional duty.



यह एक आदेश है जो सक्षम न्यायालय द्वारा किसी सार्वजनिक अधिकारी या सार्वजनिक निकाय को उसके वैधानिक या संवैधानिक कर्तव्य को पूरा करने के लिए दिया जाता है।

It is issued against public authorities, including:

यह रिट निम्नलिखित सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरणों के विरुद्ध जारी की जा सकती है:

- Government officials
सरकारी अधिकारी
- Public corporations
सार्वजनिक निगम
- Tribunals
प्राधिकरण/अधिकार न्यायाधिकरण
- Inferior courts
निचली अदालतें
- Statutory bodies
वैधानिक निकाय

When Mandamus Can Be Issued

मैंडमस कब जारी किया जा सकता है

- When a **public authority fails** to perform a **public or statutory duty**.
जब कोई सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरण अपना सार्वजनिक या वैधानिक कर्तव्य निभाने में विफल रहता है।
- When a duty is imposed by the **Constitution, statute, rules, or regulations**.
जब कर्तव्य संविधान, कानून, नियमों, या विनियमों के तहत लागू किया गया हो।
- If there is **no alternate remedy** available to the petitioner.
जब याचिकाकर्ता के पास कोई वैकल्पिक उपाय उपलब्ध नहीं होता।
- To enforce **public duties** and protect **legal rights**.
 - सार्वजनिक कर्तव्यों को लागू करने और कानूनी अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए।

Conditions Under Which Mandamus Cannot Be Issued

वो परिस्थितियाँ जब मैंडमस जारी नहीं किया जा सकता

- **Against a private individual or body**
किसी निजी व्यक्ति या निकाय के खिलाफ
- Mandamus is **not available** against **private entities** who do not owe a **public or statutory duty**.

मैंडमस उन निजी निकायों पर लागू नहीं होती जो सार्वजनिक या वैधानिक कर्तव्य के लिए बाध्य नहीं हैं।



To enforce departmental instructions

विभागीय निर्देशों को लागू करने के लिए

- Cannot be used to compel actions under **administrative instructions** that do not have **statutory backing**.
इसे ऐसे प्रशासनिक निर्देशों को लागू करने के लिए उपयोग नहीं किया जा सकता जिनके पास वैधानिक समर्थन नहीं होता।
- **When the duty is discretionary, not mandatory**
जब कर्तव्य विवेकाधीन होता है, अनिवार्य नहीं
- If the duty involves **discretion**, mandamus cannot be issued.
यदि कर्तव्य में विवेक का तत्व हो, तो मैंडमस जारी नहीं की जा सकती।

To enforce contractual obligations

ठेके के तहत किए गए दायित्वों को लागू करने के लिए

- Mandamus is not applicable in **purely contractual matters** unless the contract has **statutory or public elements**.
शुद्ध रूप से अनुबंध आधारित मामलों में मैंडमस लागू नहीं होती जब तक कि उस अनुबंध में वैधानिक या सार्वजनिक तत्व न हो।

Against the President of India or Governors of States

भारत के राष्ट्रपति या राज्यपालों के विरुद्ध

- As per **Article 361** of the Constitution, the **President and Governors enjoy immunity** from court proceedings during their **term in office**.
संविधान के अनुच्छेद 361 के अनुसार, राष्ट्रपति और राज्यपालों को उनके कार्यकाल के दौरान न्यायिक कार्यवाहियों से छूट प्राप्त है।
- **Against judges acting in judicial capacity**
न्यायिक क्षमता में कार्य कर रहे न्यायाधीशों के खिलाफ
- **Chief Justices or judges of High Courts or lower courts cannot be subjected to mandamus for actions taken in judicial capacity.**
हाई कोर्ट या निचली अदालतों के मुख्य न्यायाधीश या न्यायाधीशों पर उनके न्यायिक कार्यों के लिए मैंडमस लागू नहीं हो सकती।



Protest erupts in Diphu against Assam govt.'s move to transfer tribal land to corporate houses

GS II: Vllth Schedule Areas

The Hindu Bureau

GUWAHATI

Scores of people took to the streets in Diphu, the headquarters of central Assam's Karbi Anglong district, on Wednesday to protest the Assam government's move to hand over tribal land to large corporate houses.

Karbi Anglong is one of three regions in Assam under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, which safeguards tribal rights and grants autonomy to the local government. Diphu is about 240 km east of Guwahati.

Led by All-Party Hills Leaders Conference president Jones Ingti Kathar, the

Protesters alleged that the BJP-led Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council is ignoring the interests of the tribal communities

protesters shouted slogans against Tuliram Ronghang, the Chief Executive Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council. The protest assumed significance after a judge of the Gauhati High Court expressed shock over the Assam government allotting 3,000 bighas of land in the adjoining Dima Hasao district to a private

firm registered in Kolkata. Dima Hasao is also a Sixth Schedule area.

Assam Jatiya Parishad president Lurinjyoti Gogoi, who joined the rally, accused Mr. Ronghang of colluding with corporate entities and betraying the interests of the tribal and indigenous communities of Karbi Anglong.

"While the head of the council builds a lavish house worth ₹200 crore, the tribal people of this hill district are forced to live in crude, makeshift houses. The BJP is jeopardising the cultural and economic identity of the hill communities by handing over land to the corporate houses," he said.

Protest erupts in Diphu against Assam govt.'s move to transfer tribal land to corporate houses

असम सरकार द्वारा जनजातीय भूमि को कॉर्पोरेट घरानों को सौंपने के कदम के खिलाफ डिफू में विरोध प्रदर्शन भड़का

Scores of people took to the streets in Diphu, the headquarters of central Assam's Karbi Anglong district, on Wednesday to protest the Assam government's move to hand over tribal land to large corporate houses.



बुधवार को सैकड़ों लोग केंद्रीय असम के करबी आंगलोंग जिले के मुख्यालय डिफू की सड़कों पर उतर आए ताकि असम सरकार द्वारा जनजातीय भूमि को बड़े कॉर्पोरेट घरानों को सौंपने के कदम का विरोध कर सकें।

- **Karbi Anglong** is one of three regions in Assam under the **Sixth Schedule** of the **Constitution of India**, which safeguards tribal rights and grants autonomy to the local government. **Diphu** is about **240 km east of Guwahati**.
करबी आंगलोंग असम के तीन क्षेत्रों में से एक है जो भारत के संविधान की छठी अनुसूची के अंतर्गत आता है, जो जनजातीय अधिकारों की रक्षा करता है और स्थानीय सरकार को स्वायत्तता प्रदान करता है। डिफू गुवाहाटी से लगभग 240 किलोमीटर पूर्व में स्थित है।
- Led by **All-Party Hills Leaders Conference president Jones Ingti Kathar**, the protesters shouted slogans against **Tuliram Ronghang**, the **Chief Executive Member** of the **Bharatiya Janata Party-led Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council**. The protest assumed significance after a judge of the **Gauhati High Court** expressed shock over the **Assam government** allotting **3,000 bighas of land** in the adjoining **Dima Hasao district** to a private firm registered in **Kolkata**. **Dima Hasao** is also a **Sixth Schedule** area.
ऑल-पार्टी हिल्स लीडर्स कॉन्फ्रेंस के अध्यक्ष जोन्स इंग्ती कथार के नेतृत्व में प्रदर्शनकारियों ने तुलीराम रोंगहांग, जो भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेतृत्व वाले करबी आंगलोंग स्वायत्त जिला परिषद के मुख्य कार्यकारी सदस्य हैं, के खिलाफ नारे लगाए। विरोध तब और महत्वपूर्ण हो गया जब गुवाहाटी हाईकोर्ट के एक न्यायाधीश ने असम सरकार द्वारा सटे हुए दीमा हासाओ जिले में कोलकाता में पंजीकृत एक निजी कंपनी को 3,000 बीघा भूमि आवंटित करने पर आश्चर्य व्यक्त किया। दीमा हासाओ भी एक छठी अनुसूची क्षेत्र है।
- **Assam Jatiya Parishad president Lurinjyoti Gogoi**, who joined the rally, accused Mr. Ronghang of colluding with corporate entities and betraying the interests of the tribal and indigenous communities of **Karbi Anglong**.
असम जातीय परिषद के अध्यक्ष लुरिनज्योति गोगोई, जिन्होंने रैली में भाग लिया, ने श्री रोंगहांग पर कॉर्पोरेट संस्थाओं के साथ मिलीभगत करने और करबी आंगलोंग की जनजातीय और स्वदेशी समुदायों के हितों से विश्वासघात करने का आरोप लगाया।
- “While the head of the council builds a lavish house worth **₹200 crore**, the tribal people of this hill district are forced to live in crude, makeshift houses. The **BJP** is jeopardising the cultural and economic identity of the hill communities by handing over land to the corporate houses,” he said.
“जब परिषद का प्रमुख ₹200 करोड़ का आलीशान मकान बना रहा है, तब इस पहाड़ी जिले के आदिवासी लोग कच्चे, अस्थायी घरों में रहने को मजबूर हैं। भाजपा भूमि को कॉर्पोरेट घरानों को सौंपकर पहाड़ी समुदायों की सांस्कृतिक और आर्थिक पहचान को खतरे में डाल रही है,” उन्होंने कहा।



In Moscow, Jaishankar flags challenges that tariffs pose to India-Russia trade

GS II: India-Russia

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of penalty tariffs on India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday in Moscow raised the challenge posed by "tariff and non-tariff trade barriers" against Russia-India trade and called for the "early conclusion" of a Free Trade Agreement between India and the countries of the Eurasian region.

Mr. Jaishankar made the remarks during the 26th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Government Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) where the Russian side was being led by First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Denis Manturov.

Delivering his opening remarks, Mr. Jaishankar said some of the main issues before the IRIGC-TEC



Timely ties: S. Jaishankar with Denis Manturov during a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday. PTI

were "tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, removing bottlenecks in logistics, promoting connectivity, and effecting payment mechanisms smoothly".

Free trade pact

He said Wednesday's meeting in Moscow also finalised the terms of reference of the India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement of which Russia has been a leading proponent as it aims at removing obstacles for overland trade among Russia, Chi-

na, India and the Central Asian countries.

"...We are all acutely aware that we are meeting in the backdrop of a complex geopolitical situation. Our leaders remain closely and regularly engaged," Mr. Jaishankar said indirectly referring to the trade-related anxieties in India-U.S. relations.

India's trade with Russia grew from \$13 billion in 2021 to \$68 billion in 2024-25. The bulk of this trade is in hydrocarbon that Russia supplies to India.



In Moscow, Jaishankar flags challenges that tariffs pose to India-Russia trade

मॉस्को में, जयशंकर ने भारत-रूस व्यापार पर टैरिफ द्वारा उत्पन्न चुनौतियों को रेखांकित किया

In the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of penalty tariffs on India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday in Moscow raised the challenge posed by “tariff and non-tariff trade barriers” against Russia-India trade and called for the “early conclusion” of a Free Trade Agreement between India and the countries of the Eurasian region.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा भारत पर दंडात्मक टैरिफ लगाने की पृष्ठभूमि में, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने बुधवार को मॉस्को में भारत-रूस व्यापार के खिलाफ “टैरिफ और गैर-टैरिफ व्यापार बाधाओं” से उत्पन्न चुनौती को उठाया और भारत तथा यूरेशियन क्षेत्र के देशों के बीच मुक्त व्यापार समझौते के “शीघ्र निष्कर्ष” का आह्वान किया।

- Mr. Jaishankar made the remarks during the 26th Session of the **India-Russia Inter-Government Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)** where the Russian side was being led by First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Denis Manturov.
जयशंकर ने यह टिप्पणी भारत-रूस अंतर-सरकारी व्यापार, आर्थिक, वैज्ञानिक, प्रौद्योगिकीय और सांस्कृतिक सहयोग आयोग (IRIGC-TEC) के 26वें सत्र के दौरान की, जहां रूसी पक्ष का नेतृत्व रूस के प्रथम उप प्रधानमंत्री डेनिस मंटुरोव कर रहे थे।
- Delivering his opening remarks, Mr. Jaishankar said some of the main issues before the IRIGC-TEC were “tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, removing bottlenecks in logistics, promoting connectivity, and effecting payment mechanisms smoothly”.
अपने उद्घाटन भाषण में जयशंकर ने कहा कि IRIGC-TEC के सामने मुख्य मुद्दे थे – “टैरिफ और गैर-टैरिफ व्यापार बाधाएं, लॉजिस्टिक्स में रुकावटें दूर करना, कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा देना और भुगतान तंत्र को सुचारू रूप से लागू करना।”
- Free trade pact**
मुक्त व्यापार समझौता
- He said Wednesday's meeting in Moscow also finalised the terms of reference of the **India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement** of which Russia has been a leading proponent as it aims at removing obstacles for overland trade among **Russia, China, India and the Central Asian countries**.
उन्होंने कहा कि बुधवार की मॉस्को बैठक में भारत-यूरेशियन आर्थिक संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते की संदर्भ शर्तों को भी अंतिम रूप दिया गया, जिसका रूस प्रमुख समर्थक रहा है क्योंकि इसका उद्देश्य रूस, चीन, भारत और मध्य एशियाई देशों के बीच स्थलीय व्यापार की बाधाओं को दूर करना है।
- “...We are all acutely aware that we are meeting in the backdrop of a complex geopolitical situation. Our leaders remain closely and regularly engaged,” Mr. Jaishankar said indirectly referring to the trade-related anxieties in **India-U.S. relations**.
“...हम सभी अच्छी तरह जानते हैं कि हम जटिल भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति की पृष्ठभूमि में मिल रहे हैं। हमारे नेता निकट और नियमित रूप से जुड़े हुए हैं,” जयशंकर ने कहा, जो अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों में व्यापार से संबंधित चिंताओं का संदर्भ दे रहे थे।

India's trade with Russia grew from \$13 billion in 2021 to \$68 billion in 2024-25. The bulk of this trade is in hydrocarbon that Russia supplies to India.

भारत का रूस के साथ व्यापार 2021 में 13 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर 2024-25 में 68 अरब डॉलर हो गया। इस व्यापार का अधिकांश हिस्सा हाइड्रोकार्बन में है, जिसे रूस भारत को आपूर्ति करता है।



The fact is the ECI is a commission in crisis

GS II: ECI

India's first **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sukumar Sen (March 21, 1950 to December 19, 1958)** was a man of few words. **But he was a man of great action.**

He published no memoirs but is credited with having conducted one of the world's largest and most inclusive elections. His life is a lesson for those who are now in office: History remembers your work. Not your words or your excuses.

Reeling from a damning Supreme Court of India's interim order on August 14, 2025 (to publish the names and reasons for excluding 65 lakh electors from the Bihar draft roll), and facing a litany of questions following a game-changing exposé by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is now facing what is arguably the thorniest credibility crisis in its history. And, going by the reactions to the ECI's recent press conference on Sunday, August 17, it is likely to get worse.

It is unclear what the ECI wanted to achieve by holding this press conference. Oscillating between vague self-congratulatory rhetoric to placing the onus on political parties regarding the integrity of voter lists, and then calling out (without naming) the Leader of the Opposition, with incorrect references to the law, the ECI seemed unsure of the message that it sought to be communicated.

Unconvincing answers

If it was to clarify the doubts with regard to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar exercise, it did not do so. If it was to reassure voters of the sanctity of voter rolls, it did not do so. If it was to answer the questions with regard to voter anomalies raised by the Opposition parties and independent journalists, it did not do so.

What the ECI did succeed in doing was vindicating the Opposition claim of the ECI being neither bipartisan nor administratively savvy. The Internet was flooded with clips of the CEC, Gyanesh Kumar, giving unconvincing answers to important questions.

One example was the CEC's reason for the ECI's refusal to share video footage. This footage, which is essential to identify dual voting, cannot be given apparently on the grounds that it would violate the privacy of women, which is



Randeep Singh Surjewala

is a Member of Parliament (Congress party) and an advocate



Muhammad A. Khan

is an Advocate of the Supreme Court of India and the Secretary of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Law Department

The Election Commission of India is solely responsible for facing a loss of public confidence and voter trust

outrageously absurd. Here is another example. The CEC asked why politicians raise these issues after the election results and not when the draft voter lists are shared with the Booth Level Agents before the election. The answer is that electoral fraud becomes apparent only after voting. Bogus voter patterns can only be identified after the results are declared. That the Chief Election Commissioner of India does not know this is cause for concern.

And, what the CEC did not tell the public is how the ECI has steadfastly refused to share the same voter list data (which it provides before an election) after the results are declared.

Denial of data

Let us give other examples based on experience. The first writer of this article, on behalf of his party, the Indian National Congress, wrote to the ECI on December 27, 2024, asking for the electoral rolls related to Maharashtra and Haryana. The ECI did not even bother acknowledging the writer's requests despite another communication on January 17, 2025.

Given this stone walling, the writer had no other option but to approach the Delhi High Court. There could be no justification to deny data which had already been provided to political parties and the refusal of which could not be justified by invoking any legal provision. As a result, on February 25, 2025, notice was issued by the Delhi High Court. On the same day, the ECI submitted that it had directed the respective Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) to decide the representation in accordance with the law and through a speaking order. Accepting this, the High Court imposed a time limit of three months to decide the same.

The writers of this article appeared in person before the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Maharashtra (in compliance with this order), while their colleagues appeared before the CEO, Haryana. On May 22, 2025, the CEO, Maharashtra, passed his order, while the CEO, Haryana passed his order on May 24, 2025.

Both were the same to a substantial extent. They did not provide any voter lists but noted that the data had already been provided before the election (the same argument made *ad nauseum* by the CEC in his defence); some of the information was available on the website, and,

third, had a line that said to "seek additional copies of the same documents/information subject to compliance with the requirements of the rules, from the respective competent authorities under the rules".

The response speaks for itself. Five months after the request was first made, the ECI had invoked every excuse that it could in order not to provide machine-readable digital voter lists. This was a plain and simple case of stonewalling any meaningful scrutiny by hiding behind bureaucratic jargon.

On the Bihar SIR, the ECI has tried a similar strategy but with disastrous results. The ECI was forced to reply to why it was refusing to provide any data on the 65 lakh voters names it had deleted. And it was forced to explain its decision of excluding a range of widely used identification documents, including Aadhaar.

As highlighted, the Supreme Court, on August 14, rejected the arguments presented by the ECI to deny this data and directed that the names of all those who had been deleted had to be published, along with the reasons. Further, all of this was to be in searchable mode along with the Electors Photo Identification Card (EPIC). The Court also directed that the ECI accept the Aadhaar as a valid identification document in the cases of the persons aggrieved.

Losing voter trust

In the press meet, the CEC spent much of the time making remarks about the transparent nature of the ECI's workings and its commitment to voters. But he did not say anything about why the ECI had to be directed to carry out its basic duty.

The ECI has no one else to blame but itself.

This is a crisis that is entirely of its own making. The ECI has already lost the faith of all the major political parties except for the party that is in power. This is an indictment in itself. The ECI is now losing the trust of the voters that it claims to serve.

Perhaps, this disconnect was best illustrated by the analogy used by the CEC in his press meet when he declared that the ECI stands with voters like a mountain.

The CEC must remember this. In a democracy, the people – and not the CEC – are the mountain.

The fact is the ECI is a commission in crisis

सच्चाई यह है कि चुनाव आयोग (ECI) एक संकटग्रस्त आयोग है

Crisis of Credibility in the Election Commission of India (ECI)

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में विश्वसनीयता का संकट

- India's first **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sukumar Sen (March 21, 1950 to December 19, 1958)** was a man of few words. But he was a man of great action. भारत के पहले **मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त (CEC) सुकुमार सेन (21 मार्च 1950 से 19 दिसंबर 1958)** बहुत कम बोलते थे। लेकिन वे महान कार्य करने वाले व्यक्ति थे।
- He published no memoirs but is credited with having conducted one of the world's largest and most inclusive elections.



उन्होंने कोई संस्मरण प्रकाशित नहीं किया लेकिन उन्हें दुनिया के सबसे बड़े और समावेशी चुनावों में से एक कराने का श्रेय दिया जाता है।

- His life is a lesson for those who are now in office: **History remembers your work. Not your words or your excuses.**

उनका जीवन आज पद पर बैठे लोगों के लिए एक सबक है: **इतिहास आपके कार्यों को याद रखता है। न कि आपके शब्दों या बहानों को।**

- Reeling from a **Supreme Court of India's interim order on August 14, 2025** (to publish the names and reasons for excluding **65 lakh electors** from the Bihar draft roll), and facing a litany of questions following an exposé by **Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi**, the **ECI** is now facing the **thorniest credibility crisis in its history.**

14 अगस्त 2025 को **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** के अंतरिम आदेश (बिहार की ड्राफ्ट वोटर सूची से **65 लाख मतदाताओं** को बाहर करने के नाम और कारण प्रकाशित करने का निर्देश) और **विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी** के खुलासे के बाद सवालियों की बौछार का सामना करते हुए, **ECI** अपने इतिहास के **सबसे गंभीर विश्वसनीयता संकट** का सामना कर रहा है।

- Going by the reactions to the **ECI's press conference on August 17**, it is likely to get worse. **17 अगस्त** को हुई **ECI की प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस** की प्रतिक्रियाओं को देखकर लगता है कि स्थिति और बिगड़ सकती है।

Unclear Press Conference

अस्पष्ट प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस

- It is unclear what the **ECI** wanted to achieve by holding this press conference. यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि इस प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस को करके **ECI** क्या हासिल करना चाहता था।
- Oscillating between **vague self-congratulatory rhetoric**, putting the onus on **political parties** regarding voter list integrity, and indirectly calling out the **Leader of the Opposition** with **incorrect references to the law**, the **ECI** seemed unsure of its message. **अस्पष्ट आत्म-प्रशंसा, राजनीतिक दलों पर मतदाता सूची की शुचिता की जिम्मेदारी डालना, और कानून के गलत संदर्भों के साथ विपक्ष के नेता पर अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से निशाना साधना** — इन सबके बीच **ECI** अपने संदेश को लेकर असमंजस में दिखा।

Unconvincing Answers

अविश्वसनीय उत्तर

- If it was to clarify doubts regarding the ongoing **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** in Bihar, it did not do so. यदि उद्देश्य बिहार में चल रहे **विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR)** पर संदेह दूर करना था, तो यह नहीं हुआ।
- If it was to reassure voters of the sanctity of **voter rolls**, it did not do so. यदि उद्देश्य मतदाताओं को **वोटर सूची** की पवित्रता के बारे में आश्वस्त करना था, तो यह नहीं हुआ।
- If it was to answer questions on **voter anomalies** raised by the **Opposition parties and independent journalists**, it did not do so. यदि उद्देश्य **विपक्षी दलों और स्वतंत्र पत्रकारों** द्वारा उठाए गए **वोटर अनियमितताओं** पर प्रश्नों का उत्तर देना था, तो यह भी नहीं हुआ।
- What the **ECI** did succeed in doing was vindicating the Opposition claim of the **ECI being neither bipartisan nor administratively savvy.** जो काम **ECI** ने किया, वह विपक्ष के इस दावे को सही ठहराना था कि **ECI न तो निष्पक्ष है और न ही प्रशासनिक रूप से सक्षम**
- The Internet was flooded with clips of **CEC Gyanesh Kumar** giving **unconvincing answers** to important questions. इंटरनेट पर **CEC ज्ञानेश कुमार** के **अविश्वसनीय उत्तरों** वाले वीडियो क्लिप्स की बाढ़ आ गई।

Examples of Failures

विफलताओं के उदाहरण

- One example was the **CEC's refusal** to share video footage essential to identify **dual voting**, citing it would violate the **privacy of women** — which is **absurd.**



एक उदाहरण **CEC का इंकार** था कि वह **दोहरी वोटिंग** की पहचान के लिए आवश्यक वीडियो फुटेज साझा नहीं करेगा, क्योंकि यह **महिलाओं की गोपनीयता** का उल्लंघन होगा — जो बिल्कुल **असंगत** है।

- Another example was the CEC asking why politicians raise these issues after election results, not when **draft voter lists** are shared with **Booth Level Agents (BLAs)**. The answer is that **electoral fraud becomes apparent only after voting**.
दूसरा उदाहरण यह था कि CEC ने पूछा कि नेता चुनाव परिणामों के बाद ही ये मुद्दे क्यों उठाते हैं, जब कि **ड्राफ्ट वोटर सूची** पहले ही **बूथ लेवल एजेंट्स (BLAs)** को दी जाती है। जवाब यह है कि **चुनावी धोखाधड़ी केवल मतदान के बाद ही स्पष्ट होती है**।
- Bogus voter patterns can only be identified **after the results are declared**. That the **CEC of India** does not know this is a **cause for concern**.
फर्जी मतदाता पैटर्न केवल **परिणाम घोषित होने के बाद** ही पहचाने जा सकते हैं। यह कि **भारत के CEC** को यह नहीं पता, **चिंता का विषय** है।
- What the CEC did not tell the public is how the **ECI has refused to share the same voter list data** (which it provides before elections) **after results are declared**.
जो बात CEC ने जनता को नहीं बताई, वह यह है कि **ECI उसी वोटर सूची डेटा को साझा करने से इनकार करता है** (जो चुनाव से पहले उपलब्ध कराया जाता है) **परिणाम घोषित होने के बाद**।

Denial of data

डेटा का इनकार

- Let us give other examples based on experience.
आइए अनुभव के आधार पर अन्य उदाहरण दें।
- The first writer of this article, on behalf of his party, the **Indian National Congress**, wrote to the **ECI** on **December 27, 2024**, asking for the electoral rolls related to **Maharashtra** and **Haryana**.
इस लेख के पहले लेखक ने अपनी पार्टी **इंडियन नेशनल कांग्रेस** की ओर से **27 दिसंबर 2024** को **ईसीआई** को पत्र लिखा, जिसमें **महाराष्ट्र** और **हरियाणा** से संबंधित निर्वाचन सूची मांगी गई।
- The **ECI** did not even bother acknowledging the writer's requests despite another communication on **January 17, 2025**.
ईसीआई ने **17 जनवरी 2025** को एक और पत्राचार के बावजूद लेखक के अनुरोधों को स्वीकार करने की भी परवाह नहीं की।
- Given this stone walling, the writer had no other option but to approach the **Delhi High Court**.
इस टालमटोल के चलते, लेखक के पास **दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय** जाने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं था।
- There could be no justification to deny data which had already been provided to political parties and the refusal of which could not be justified by invoking any legal provision.
उस डेटा को न देने का कोई औचित्य नहीं था जो पहले ही राजनीतिक दलों को दिया जा चुका था और जिसे किसी कानूनी प्रावधान के हवाले से ठुकराया नहीं जा सकता था।
- As a result, on **February 25, 2025**, notice was issued by the **Delhi High Court**.
नतीजतन, **25 फरवरी 2025** को **दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय** द्वारा नोटिस जारी किया गया।
- On the same day, the **ECI** submitted that it had directed the respective **Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs)** to decide the representation in accordance with the law and through a speaking order.
उसी दिन, **ईसीआई** ने प्रस्तुत किया कि उसने संबंधित **मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारियों (सीईओ)** को कानून के अनुसार और स्पीकिंग ऑर्डर के माध्यम से प्रस्तुति पर निर्णय लेने का निर्देश दिया है।
- Accepting this, the High Court imposed a time limit of **three months** to decide the same.
इसे स्वीकार करते हुए उच्च न्यायालय ने निर्णय लेने के लिए **तीन महीने** की समय सीमा तय की।
- The writers of this article appeared in person before the **CEO, Maharashtra** (in compliance with this order), while their colleagues appeared before the **CEO, Haryana**.
इस आदेश का पालन करते हुए, इस लेख के लेखक व्यक्तिगत रूप से **सीईओ, महाराष्ट्र** के समक्ष उपस्थित हुए, जबकि उनके सहयोगी **सीईओ, हरियाणा** के समक्ष उपस्थित हुए।
- On **May 22, 2025**, the **CEO, Maharashtra**, passed his order, while the **CEO, Haryana** passed his order on **May 24, 2025**.
22 मई 2025 को **सीईओ, महाराष्ट्र** ने अपना आदेश पारित किया, जबकि **24 मई 2025** को **सीईओ, हरियाणा** ने अपना आदेश पारित किया।



- Both were the same to a substantial extent.
दोनों आदेश काफी हद तक समान थे।
- They did not provide any voter lists but noted that the data had already been provided before the election (the same argument made ad nauseum by the **CEC** in his defence); some of the information was available on the website, and, third, had a line that said to “seek additional copies of the same documents/information subject to compliance with the requirements of the rules, from the respective competent authorities under the rules”.
उन्होंने कोई भी मतदाता सूची उपलब्ध नहीं कराई, बल्कि यह नोट किया कि डेटा पहले ही चुनाव से पहले उपलब्ध करा दिया गया था (वही तर्क जिसे **सीईसी** ने बार-बार अपने बचाव में पेश किया); कुछ जानकारी वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध थी, और तीसरे में एक पंक्ति थी जिसमें कहा गया था कि “उसी दस्तावेजों/जानकारी की अतिरिक्त प्रतियाँ संबंधित सक्षम अधिकारियों से नियमों के तहत नियमों की आवश्यकताओं का पालन करते हुए प्राप्त करें”।
- The response speaks for itself. **Five months** after the request was first made, the **ECI** had invoked every excuse that it could in order not to provide machine-readable digital voter lists. जवाब अपने आप बोलता है। पहली बार अनुरोध किए जाने के **पाँच महीने** बाद, **ईसीआई** ने मशीन-रीडेबल डिजिटल मतदाता सूची उपलब्ध न कराने के लिए हर बहाना बना लिया।
- This was a plain and simple case of stonewalling any meaningful scrutiny by hiding behind bureaucratic jargon.
यह सिर्फ नौकरशाही की भाषा के पीछे छिपकर किसी भी सार्थक जांच से बचने का एक साधारण और स्पष्ट मामला था।
- On the **Bihar SIR**, the **ECI** has tried a similar strategy but with disastrous results.
बिहार एसआईआर पर, **ईसीआई** ने इसी तरह की रणनीति अपनाने की कोशिश की, लेकिन परिणाम विनाशकारी रहे।
- The **ECI** was forced to reply to why it was refusing to provide any data on the **65 lakh voters** names it had deleted.
ईसीआई को मजबूर होकर यह बताना पड़ा कि उसने हटाए गए **65 लाख मतदाताओं** के नामों का कोई डेटा क्यों नहीं दिया।
- And it was forced to explain its decision of excluding a range of widely used identification documents, including **Aadhaar**.
और इसे यह समझाने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा कि उसने **आधार** सहित व्यापक रूप से उपयोग किए जाने वाले पहचान दस्तावेजों की एक श्रृंखला को क्यों बाहर रखा।
- As highlighted, the **Supreme Court**, on **August 14**, rejected the arguments presented by the **ECI** to deny this data and directed that the names of all those who had been deleted had to be published, along with the reasons.
जैसा कि बताया गया, **14 अगस्त** को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने इस डेटा को न देने के लिए **ईसीआई** द्वारा प्रस्तुत तर्कों को खारिज कर दिया और निर्देश दिया कि जिन सभी को हटाया गया है उनके नाम कारणों सहित प्रकाशित किए जाएँ।
- Further, all of this was to be in **searchable mode** along with the **Electors Photo Identification Card (EPIC)**.
इसके अलावा, यह सब **सर्चबल मोड** में और **EPIC (इलेक्टर्स फोटो आइडेंटिफिकेशन कार्ड)** के साथ होना था।
- The Court also directed that the **ECI** accept the **Aadhaar** as a valid identification document in the cases of the persons aggrieved.
अदालत ने यह भी निर्देश दिया कि **ईसीआई** पीड़ित व्यक्तियों के मामलों में **आधार** को एक वैध पहचान दस्तावेज के रूप में स्वीकार करे।

Losing voter trust मतदाता विश्वास की हानि

- In the press meet, the **CEC** spent much of the time making remarks about the transparent nature of the **ECI's** workings and its commitment to voters.
प्रेस मीट में, **सीईसी** ने अपना अधिकांश समय **ईसीआई** के कामकाज की पारदर्शी प्रकृति और मतदाताओं के प्रति उसकी प्रतिबद्धता पर टिप्पणी करने में बिताया।



- But he did not say anything about why the **ECI** had to be directed to carry out its basic duty. लेकिन उन्होंने यह नहीं बताया कि **ईसीआई** को अपना बुनियादी कर्तव्य निभाने के लिए निर्देशित क्यों करना पड़ा।
- The **ECI** has no one else to blame but itself.
ईसीआई को किसी और को नहीं बल्कि खुद को दोष देना चाहिए।
- This is a crisis that is entirely of its own making.
यह संकट पूरी तरह से उसके अपने ही निर्माण का परिणाम है।
- The **ECI** has already lost the faith of all the major political parties except for the party that is in power.
ईसीआई पहले ही सत्ता में पार्टी को छोड़कर सभी प्रमुख राजनीतिक दलों का विश्वास खो चुका है।
- This is an indictment in itself. The **ECI** is now losing the trust of the voters that it claims to serve.
यह अपने आप में एक आरोप है। **ईसीआई** अब उन मतदाताओं का विश्वास खो रहा है जिनकी सेवा करने का वह दावा करता है।
- Perhaps, this disconnect was best illustrated by the analogy used by the **CEC** in his press meet when he declared that the **ECI** stands with voters like a **mountain**.
शायद इस disconnect को सबसे अच्छे तरीके से **सीईसी** द्वारा प्रेस मीट में दिए गए उदाहरण से दिखाया गया, जब उन्होंने कहा कि **ईसीआई** मतदाताओं के साथ एक **पहाड़** की तरह खड़ा है।
- The **CEC** must remember this. In a **democracy**, the **people** — and not the **CEC** — are the **mountain**.
सीईसी को यह याद रखना चाहिए। एक **लोकतंत्र** में, **लोग** — और **सीईसी** नहीं — **पहाड़** होते हैं।

PATRIOTICIAS



A historic move, but still unequal

Karnataka's SC reservation favours strong groups, leaving the marginalised behind

GS II: Social Justice

STATE OF PLAY

Sharath S. Srivatsa

sharath.srivatsa@thehindu.co.in

Hoping to bring down the curtain on the three-decade-old struggle for internal reservation, the Karnataka government on Tuesday agreed on a matrix for slicing up the overall 17% reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the State. The **Madiga community (Dalit left)**, who led the struggle from the front, will now get a 6% share in the overall matrix. The relatively better-off **Dalit right (Holey)** group will receive 6%, while the “less backward” communities of **Lambanis, Bhovis, Korama, and Koracha** — along with 59 microscopic communities — have been allocated 5%.

The demand for internal reservation, which gained momentum over the past decade and a half, received judicial clearance last August, when the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of creating a matrix within the larger SC quota. In Karnataka, 101 castes have been notified as SCs. The government mostly relied on the recommendations of the one-man commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, who submitted a report on August 4. The report recommended classifications following a two-month house-to-house survey, which collected empirical data on the socio-economic and educational backwardness of about 93% of Karnataka's estimated 1.16 crore SC population.

The Cabinet's decision, announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, appears to have been weighed down by political compulsions. While the commission recommended



five categories based on backwardness, the government reduced these to three to accommodate the demands of the politically stronger Dalit right and “less backward” communities. In doing so, the State government let go of Category A, which was recommended for 1% reservation by the commission for the most backward 59 microscopic communities, many of which have double-digit populations and no representation in bureaucracy or politics. In another decision, the Cabinet also dropped the 1% reservation recommended for Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida, and Adi Andhra communities under Category E. They have been split between right and left groups.

Under the new categorisation, microscopic communities — around 4.97% of the total SC population — will now have to fight with relatively better-off “less backward” SC communities that have made strides in securing education and finding public sector employment.

While many concede that bringing consensus among all groups vying to have a bigger pie in the matrix was not easy, it was believed that in the jockeying for a higher share, the microscopic communities — many of them nomadic — did not get the justice they had hoped for. Of the six Dalit Ministers in the Cabinet, none

represent these communities, and there was no voice in their favour. In the final decision, both Dalit right and “less backward” communities received 1% more than the commission's recommendations. In Karnataka, Dalit left is seen as veering towards the BJP, while Dalit right is believed to be with the Congress. The “less backward” communities are believed to be divided between the BJP and Congress.

The question of internal reservation has been an important component of Dalit politics in Karnataka over the past two decades. While the A.J. Sadashiva Commission, set up in 2005, submitted its report in 2012, the internal reservation remained mostly rhetoric as Dalit right groups successfully brought pressure on the government not to implement its recommendations. The judiciary then had also not cleared the internal reservation. The BJP government in 2022 tried to tinker with the recommendations and came out with its matrix that was unacceptable to Dalit right and “less backward” communities. It also increased the overall reservation for SCs from 15% to 17%. Ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, the Congress promised in its manifesto to introduce internal reservation.

Following the commission's recommendations, though not officially released, Dalit right groups have been vigorously campaigning against the report, urging the government to drop it in what was seen as a posture for hard bargaining. While the clearing of the internal quota is historic, in the end, the relatively more powerful communities within the larger SC population seem to have gained an upper hand, while the most marginalised still have a long fight.

A historic move, but still unequal

एक ऐतिहासिक कदम, लेकिन अब भी असमान

Internal Reservation for Scheduled Castes in Karnataka

कर्नाटक में अनुसूचित जातियों के लिए आंतरिक आरक्षण

- Hoping to bring down the curtain on the **three-decade-old struggle** for internal reservation, the Karnataka government on Tuesday agreed on a matrix for slicing up the overall **17% reservation** for the **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** in the State.

तीन दशक पुराने संघर्ष को समाप्त करने की उम्मीद में, कर्नाटक सरकार ने मंगलवार को राज्य में **अनुसूचित जातियों (SCs)** के लिए कुल **17% आरक्षण** को विभाजित करने के लिए एक मैट्रिक्स पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

- The **Madiga community (Dalit left)**, who led the struggle from the front, will now get a **6% share** in the overall matrix.

संघर्ष का नेतृत्व करने वाले **माडिगा समुदाय (दलित लेफ्ट)** को अब कुल मैट्रिक्स में **6% हिस्सा** मिलेगा।

- The relatively better-off **Dalit right (Holey)** group will receive **6%**, while the “less backward” communities of **Lambanis, Bhovis, Korama, and Koracha** — along with **59 microscopic communities** — have been allocated **5%**.

अपेक्षाकृत बेहतर स्थिति वाले **दलित**

राइट (होलेया) समूह को **6%** मिलेगा, जबकि “**कम पिछड़े**” समुदाय जैसे **लंबानी, भोवी, कोरमा और कोरचा** — तथा **59 सूक्ष्म समुदायों** — को **5%** आवंटित किए गए हैं।

- The demand for internal reservation, which gained momentum over the past **decade and a half**, received judicial clearance last **August**, when the **Supreme Court** upheld the **constitutional validity** of creating a matrix within the larger SC quota.



आंतरिक आरक्षण की मांग, जिसने पिछले **डेढ़ दशक** में गति प्राप्त की, को पिछले **अगस्त** में न्यायिक मंजूरी मिली, जब **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने बड़े SC कोटे के भीतर मैट्रिक्स बनाने की **संवैधानिक वैधता** को बरकरार रखा।

- In Karnataka, **101 castes** have been notified as SCs. The government mostly relied on the recommendations of the one-man commission headed by retired judge **H.N. Nagamohan Das**, who submitted a report on **August 4**.
कर्नाटक में **101 जातियों** को SC के रूप में अधिसूचित किया गया है। सरकार ने मुख्य रूप से सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश **एच.एन. नागमोहन दास** की अध्यक्षता वाले एक-सदस्यीय आयोग की सिफारिशों पर भरोसा किया, जिन्होंने **4 अगस्त** को एक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की।
- The report recommended classifications following a **two-month house-to-house survey**, which collected **empirical data** on the socio-economic and educational backwardness of about **93%** of Karnataka's estimated **1.16 crore SC population**.
रिपोर्ट ने **दो महीने के घर-घर सर्वेक्षण** के बाद वर्गीकरण की सिफारिश की, जिसने कर्नाटक की अनुमानित **1.16 करोड़ SC आबादी** के लगभग **93%** की सामाजिक-आर्थिक और शैक्षिक पिछड़ेपन पर **प्रायोगिक डेटा** एकत्र किया।
- The Cabinet's decision, announced by **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah**, appears to have been weighed down by **political compulsions**.
मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धारमैया द्वारा घोषित मंत्रिमंडल का निर्णय **राजनीतिक मजबूरियों** से प्रभावित प्रतीत होता है।
- While the commission recommended **five categories** based on backwardness, the government reduced these to **three** to accommodate the demands of the politically stronger **Dalit right** and "**less backward**" communities.
जबकि आयोग ने पिछड़ेपन के आधार पर **पाँच श्रेणियों** की सिफारिश की थी, सरकार ने राजनीतिक रूप से मजबूत **दलित राइट** और "**कम पिछड़े**" समुदायों की मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए इन्हें **तीन** कर दिया।
- In doing so, the State government let go of **Category A**, which was recommended for **1% reservation** by the commission for the **most backward 59 microscopic communities**, many of which have **double-digit populations** and no representation in **bureaucracy or politics**.
ऐसा करते हुए, राज्य सरकार ने **श्रेणी A** को छोड़ दिया, जिसे आयोग ने **सबसे पिछड़े 59 सूक्ष्म समुदायों** के लिए **1% आरक्षण** की सिफारिश की थी, जिनमें से कई की **दो अंकों की आबादी** है और **नौकरशाही या राजनीति** में कोई प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं है।
- In another decision, the Cabinet also dropped the **1% reservation** recommended for **Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida, and Adi Andhra communities** under **Category E**. They have been split between **right and left groups**.
एक अन्य निर्णय में, मंत्रिमंडल ने **श्रेणी E** के अंतर्गत **आदि कर्नाटक, आदि द्रविड़ और आदि आंध्र समुदायों** के लिए अनुशंसित **1% आरक्षण** को भी हटा दिया। इन्हें **राइट और लेफ्ट समूहों** के बीच विभाजित कर दिया गया है।

Internal Reservation in Karnataka and its Impact on Dalit Communities

कर्नाटक में आंतरिक आरक्षण और इसका दलित समुदायों पर प्रभाव

- Under the new categorisation, **microscopic communities** — around **4.97% of the total SC population** — will now have to fight with relatively better-off "less backward" SC communities that have made strides in securing education and finding public sector employment.
नए वर्गीकरण के तहत, **सूक्ष्म समुदाय** — कुल एससी जनसंख्या का लगभग **4.97%** — को अब अपेक्षाकृत बेहतर स्थिति वाले "कम पिछड़े" एससी समुदायों से लड़ना होगा जिन्होंने शिक्षा प्राप्त करने और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की नौकरियों में सफलता पाई है।
- While many concede that bringing consensus among all groups vying to have a bigger pie in the matrix was not easy, it was believed that in the jockeying for a higher share, the **microscopic communities** — many of them nomadic — **did not get the justice** they had hoped for.
जबकि कई मानते हैं कि सभी समूहों के बीच सहमति बनाना आसान नहीं था, यह माना गया कि अधिक हिस्सेदारी की होड़ में, **सूक्ष्म समुदाय** — जिनमें से कई घुमंतू हैं — को वह न्याय नहीं मिला जिसकी उन्होंने आशा की थी।
- Of the **six Dalit Ministers in the Cabinet**, none represent these communities, and there was no voice in their favour.
मंत्रिमंडल में **छह दलित मंत्रियों** में से कोई भी इन समुदायों का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करता, और उनके पक्ष में कोई आवाज़ नहीं उठी।



- In the final decision, both **Dalit right** and “less backward” communities received **1% more than the commission’s recommendations**.
अंतिम निर्णय में, दलित राइट और “कम पिछड़े” समुदायों को आयोग की सिफारिशों से 1% अधिक मिला।
- In Karnataka, **Dalit left is seen as veering towards the BJP**, while **Dalit right is believed to be with the Congress**. The “less backward” communities are believed to be divided between the BJP and Congress.
कर्नाटक में, दलित लेफ्ट को बीजेपी की ओर झुकता हुआ देखा जाता है, जबकि दलित राइट को कांग्रेस के साथ माना जाता है। “कम पिछड़े” समुदायों को बीजेपी और कांग्रेस के बीच बंटा हुआ माना जाता है।
- The question of **internal reservation** has been an important component of Dalit politics in Karnataka over the past **two decades**.
आंतरिक आरक्षण का प्रश्न पिछले दो दशकों में कर्नाटक की दलित राजनीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा रहा है।
- While the **A.J. Sadashiva Commission**, set up in **2005**, submitted its report in **2012**, the internal reservation remained mostly rhetoric as **Dalit right groups successfully brought pressure on the government not to implement its recommendations**.
ए.जे. सादाशिव आयोग, जिसे **2005** में गठित किया गया था, ने अपनी रिपोर्ट **2012** में प्रस्तुत की, लेकिन आंतरिक आरक्षण ज्यादातर भाषणों तक सीमित रहा क्योंकि **दलित राइट समूहों ने सरकार पर अपनी सिफारिशों को लागू न करने का सफल दबाव बनाया**।
- The judiciary then had also not cleared the internal reservation.
उस समय न्यायपालिका ने भी आंतरिक आरक्षण को मंजूरी नहीं दी थी।
- The **BJP government in 2022** tried to tinker with the recommendations and came out with its **matrix that was unacceptable** to Dalit right and “less backward” communities.
2022 में बीजेपी सरकार ने सिफारिशों में बदलाव करने की कोशिश की और अपना **मैट्रिक्स प्रस्तुत किया जो दलित राइट और “कम पिछड़े” समुदायों के लिए अस्वीकार्य था**।
- It also increased the overall reservation for SCs from **15% to 17%**.
इसने एससी के लिए कुल आरक्षण को **15% से बढ़ाकर 17%** कर दिया।
- Ahead of the **2023 Assembly elections**, the **Congress promised in its manifesto** to introduce internal reservation.
2023 विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले, **कांग्रेस ने अपने घोषणापत्र में** आंतरिक आरक्षण लागू करने का वादा किया।
- Following the commission’s recommendations, though not officially released, **Dalit right groups have been vigorously campaigning against the report**, urging the government to drop it in what was seen as a posture for hard bargaining.
आयोग की सिफारिशों के बाद, हालांकि वे आधिकारिक रूप से जारी नहीं की गईं, **दलित राइट समूह रिपोर्ट के खिलाफ जोरदार अभियान चला रहे हैं**, और सरकार से इसे छोड़ने का आग्रह कर रहे हैं, जिसे कड़े सौदेबाजी के तौर पर देखा गया।
- While the clearing of the internal quota is **historic**, in the end, the relatively more powerful communities within the larger SC population seem to have gained an **upper hand**, while the most marginalised still have a **long fight**.
आंतरिक कोटे की मंजूरी **ऐतिहासिक** है, लेकिन अंततः बड़े एससी समुदायों के भीतर अपेक्षाकृत अधिक शक्तिशाली समूहों ने **बढ़त हासिल की**, जबकि सबसे हाशिए पर पड़े लोगों के पास अभी भी एक **लंबी लड़ाई** बाकी है।



What are 'machine readable' electoral rolls?

Why are electoral rolls not being provided by the EC in a format that can be analysed easily?

GS II: Elections

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

Along with the allegations of 'vote theft' by the Congress, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has demanded that "machine readable" voter rolls be made available to all political parties by the Election Commission (EC).

How are voter rolls shared?

Electoral rolls are the authoritative list of who is and isn't allowed to vote in India, and they are continuously updated when newly eligible voters register to vote, change addresses, or become ineligible. Voter rolls are prepared under the EC's authority by district level officials, who have access to ERONET, a digital application used by the EC to process applications for new additions to the voter list, or deletions. The EC has access to the full repository of data on every

voter in India. They make this data accessible by making 'image PDF' files available, or by handing out printouts to political parties and the general public. Voter rolls include a photo of all voters, but this photo is not included in the image PDF files that the EC has on its website. While these image PDF rolls can be scrutinised in theory, this can turn out to be a resource-intensive exercise in practice. India has over 99 crore voter roll entries as of this January, and spotting duplicates can be challenging unless a team of human reviewers has a long period of time, and a limited geographic sample. That was the case in the Mahadevapura constituency of Bengaluru, where the Congress was able to spot 11,965 duplicate entries.

However, if 'text PDF' files are made available, the text can be indexed and searched by a computer making information formatting more straightforward. Without such

machine-readable rolls, the Opposition argues, malfeasance and duplicate entries will be harder to spot. P.G. Bhat, a Bengaluru activist, has, prior to 2018, analysed machine-readable rolls to highlight irregular additions.

Why won't the EC provide the same?

One year before the 2019 elections, the EC ordered State-level Chief Electoral Officers to stop uploading machine-readable rolls on their website. O.P. Rawat, the then Chief Election Commissioner, told *The Hindu* that this was done to prevent foreign countries from accessing voter roll data, which could expose Indians' full names and addresses. In *Kamal Nath versus Election Commission of India*, the Supreme Court in 2018 refused to compel the EC to provide machine-readable electoral roll data. This was in spite of the EC's own manual, which states that the "draft roll shall be put on [Chief Electoral Officers']

What are 'machine readable' electoral rolls?

‘मशीन रीडेबल’ निर्वाचक नामावलियां क्या हैं?

Allegations of 'vote theft' and demand for machine-readable voter rolls

‘वोट चोरी’ के आरोप और मशीन-रीडेबल मतदाता सूची की माँग

- Along with the allegations of 'vote theft' by the Congress, Leader of the Opposition **Rahul Gandhi** has demanded that "machine readable" voter rolls be made available to all political parties by the **Election Commission (EC)**.
कांग्रेस द्वारा लगाए गए 'वोट चोरी' के आरोपों के साथ, विपक्ष के नेता **राहुल गांधी** ने माँग की है कि निर्वाचन आयोग (EC) सभी राजनीतिक दलों को "मशीन-रीडेबल" मतदाता सूचियाँ उपलब्ध कराए।

How are voter rolls shared?

मतदाता सूचियाँ कैसे साझा की जाती हैं?



- **Electoral rolls** are the authoritative list of who is and isn't allowed to vote in India, and they are continuously updated when newly eligible voters register to vote, change addresses, or become ineligible.
मतदाता सूची यह आधिकारिक सूची है कि भारत में कौन मतदान कर सकता है और कौन नहीं, और इसे लगातार अपडेट किया जाता है जब नए योग्य मतदाता पंजीकृत होते हैं, पता बदलते हैं, या अयोग्य हो जाते हैं।
- **Voter rolls are prepared under the EC's authority by district level officials, who have access to ERONET, a digital application used by the EC to process applications for new additions to the voter list, or deletions.**
मतदाता सूची निर्वाचन आयोग (EC) के अधिकार के तहत जिला स्तर के अधिकारियों द्वारा तैयार की जाती है, जिन्हें ERONET तक पहुँच होती है, जो एक डिजिटल एप्लिकेशन है जिसका उपयोग EC नए जोड़ या हटाने की प्रक्रिया के लिए करता है।
- The EC has access to the full repository of data on every voter in India. They make this data accessible by making 'image PDF' files available, or by handing out printouts to political parties and the general public.
EC के पास भारत के हर मतदाता के पूरे डेटा का संग्रह होता है। वे इस डेटा को 'image PDF' फ़ाइल उपलब्ध कराकर या राजनीतिक दलों और आम जनता को प्रिंटआउट देकर सुलभ बनाते हैं।
- **Voter rolls include a photo of all voters, but this photo is not included in the image PDF files that the EC has on its website.**
मतदाता सूची में सभी मतदाताओं का फोटो शामिल होता है, लेकिन यह फोटो EC की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध image PDF फ़ाइलों में शामिल नहीं होता।
- India has over **99 crore voter roll entries** as of this **January**, and spotting duplicates can be challenging unless a team of human reviewers has a long period of time, and a limited geographic sample.
इस जनवरी तक भारत में **99 करोड़ से अधिक मतदाता प्रविष्टियाँ** हैं, और डुप्लीकेट ढूँढना चुनौतीपूर्ण हो सकता है जब तक कि मानव समीक्षकों की टीम के पास लंबा समय और सीमित भौगोलिक नमूना न हो।
- In **Mahadevapura constituency of Bengaluru**, the Congress was able to spot **11,965 duplicate entries.**
बेंगलुरु के महादेवपुरा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में, कांग्रेस ने **11,965 डुप्लीकेट प्रविष्टियाँ** खोजीं।
- If 'text PDF' files are made available, the text can be indexed and searched by a computer, making information formatting more straightforward.
यदि 'text PDF' फ़ाइलें उपलब्ध कराई जाती हैं, तो टेक्स्ट को कंप्यूटर द्वारा इंडेक्स और खोजा जा सकता है, जिससे जानकारी को प्रारूपित करना आसान हो जाएगा।

Why won't the EC provide the same?

EC ऐसा क्यों उपलब्ध नहीं कराता?

- One year before the **2019 elections**, the EC ordered State-level **Chief Electoral Officers** to stop uploading **machine-readable rolls** on their website.
2019 के चुनावों से एक साल पहले, EC ने राज्य स्तर के **मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारियों** को अपनी वेबसाइट पर **मशीन-रीडेबल सूचियाँ** अपलोड करना बंद करने का आदेश दिया।
- This was done to prevent **foreign countries** from accessing voter roll data, which could expose **Indians' full names and addresses.**
यह इसलिए किया गया ताकि **विदेशी देश** मतदाता सूची डेटा तक पहुँच न पाएँ, जिससे **भारतीयों के पूरे नाम और पते** उजागर हो सकते हैं।
- In **2018**, the **Supreme Court** in *Kamal Nath vs EC* refused to compel the EC to provide **machine-readable electoral roll data.**
2018 में, *कमलनाथ बनाम EC* मामले में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने EC को मशीन-रीडेबल मतदाता सूची डेटा प्रदान करने के लिए बाध्य करने से इनकार कर दिया।
- The court observed, "if the petitioner so wants, he can always convert [voter lists] into searchable mode," which would require him to put his own efforts.
अदालत ने कहा, "यदि याचिकाकर्ता चाहे, तो वह हमेशा [मतदाता सूचियों] को सर्चबल मोड में बदल सकता है," जिसके लिए उसे अपने प्रयास करने होंगे।

The challenge of OCR technology

OCR तकनीक की चुनौती



- The main technology to convert scanned or un-searchable **PDF documents** into an analysable format is **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)**, a decades-old technology. स्कैन की गई या अप्राप्य **PDF दस्तावेज़ों** को विश्लेषण योग्य प्रारूप में बदलने की मुख्य तकनीक **ऑप्टिकल कैरेक्टर रिकग्निशन (OCR)** है, जो दशकों पुरानी तकनीक है।
- On the **EC's website**, voter rolls for each assembly constituency are split into hundreds of "parts," each a separate PDF document. **EC की वेबसाइट** पर, प्रत्येक विधानसभा क्षेत्र की मतदाता सूचियाँ सैकड़ों "पार्ट्स" में विभाजित होती हैं, और प्रत्येक अलग-अलग PDF दस्तावेज़ होता है।
- Performing **OCR** on such a massive number of pages — over **six crore** for all voter rolls in the country — would cost around **\$40,000** per summary revision list (as per Google's indicative AI Document pricing). इतनी बड़ी संख्या के पृष्ठों — पूरे देश की मतदाता सूचियों के लिए **6 करोड़ से अधिक** — पर **OCR** करना प्रति सारांश संशोधन सूची लगभग **\$40,000** की लागत होगी (गूगल के संकेतात्मक AI डॉक्युमेंट मूल्य निर्धारण के अनुसार)।

Can digital voter rolls spot fraud?

क्या डिजिटल मतदाता सूची धोखाधड़ी पकड़ सकती है?

- **Rahul Gandhi** has argued that having **searchable copies** would make spotting duplicate entries easier. **राहुल गांधी** ने तर्क दिया है कि **सर्चबल कॉपियाँ** होने से डुप्लीकेट प्रविष्टियाँ ढूँढना आसान होगा।
- **Srinivas Kodali**, a transparency activist, said that "there is a risk" in making rolls public, but the EC's conduct necessitated further transparency. पारदर्शिता कार्यकर्ता **श्रीनिवास कोडाली** ने कहा कि सूचियों को सार्वजनिक करने में "जोखिम" है, लेकिन EC के आचरण ने अधिक पारदर्शिता आवश्यक बना दी है।
- He added, "If the capability to **OCR** anyway exists with political parties, the question is whether we might as well make it public." उन्होंने कहा, "यदि **OCR** करने की क्षमता वैसे भी राजनीतिक दलों के पास है, तो सवाल यह है कि क्यों न हम इसे सार्वजनिक कर दें।"

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Number of Vice Presidents India has had since the post's inception. **Ans: 14 with the latest occupant being Jagdeep Dhankhar**
 2. The reason why a candidate should be qualified to be elected to the Rajya Sabha. **Ans: Because the VP is to act as the ex-officio chairman of the Upper House**
 3. Apart from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, this VP has held the post for 10 years. **Ans: M. Hamid Ansari**
 4. Six Vice Presidents have become President. Four are Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, V.V. Giri, and K.R. Narayanan, name the other two. **Ans: R. Venkataraman and Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma**
 5. The Vice President who passed away during his tenure. **Ans: Krishan Kant**
 6. Name the three Vice Presidents to have been honoured with the Bharat Ratna. **Ans: S. Radhakrishnan, Zakir Husain and V.V. Giri**
- Visual: Name this individual. **Ans: Mohammad Hidayatullah**

QUIZ

Number of **Vice Presidents India** has had since the post's inception. **Ans: 14** with the latest occupant being **Jagdeep Dhankhar**

भारत में इस पद के आरंभ से अब तक **उपराष्ट्रपति** की संख्या। **उत्तर: 14**, और वर्तमान में पद पर आसीन हैं **जगदीप धनखड़**

The reason why a candidate should be qualified to be elected to the **Rajya Sabha**. **Ans: Because the VP is to act as the ex-officio chairman of the Upper House**

राज्यसभा में चुने जाने के लिए उम्मीदवार के योग्य होने का कारण। **उत्तर: क्योंकि उपराष्ट्रपति उच्च सदन के पदेन सभापति के रूप में कार्य करता है**

Apart from Dr. **S. Radhakrishnan**, this **VP** has held the post for **10 years**. **Ans: M. Hamid Ansari**

डॉ. एस. राधाकृष्णन के अलावा, इस **उपराष्ट्रपति** ने **10 वर्षों** तक यह पद संभाला। **उत्तर: एम. हामिद अंसारी**

Six **Vice Presidents** have become **President**. Four are **Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, V.V. Giri, and K.R. Narayanan**, name the other two. **Ans: R. Venkataraman and Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma**



छह उपराष्ट्रपति राष्ट्रपति बने। इनमें चार हैं डॉ. राधाकृष्णन, डॉ. जाकिर हुसैन, वी.वी. गिरी और के.आर. नारायणन, अन्य दो के नाम बताइए। उत्तर: आर. वेंकटरामन और डॉ. शंकर दयाल शर्मा

The **Vice President** who passed away during his tenure. Ans: **Krishan Kant**
अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान जिन उपराष्ट्रपति का निधन हुआ। उत्तर: कृष्णकांत

Name the three **Vice Presidents** to have been honoured with the **Bharat Ratna**. Ans: **S. Radhakrishnan, Zakir Husain and V.V. Giri**

उन तीन उपराष्ट्रपतियों के नाम बताइए जिन्हें **भारत रत्न** से सम्मानित किया गया। उत्तर: एस. राधाकृष्णन, जाकिर हुसैन और वी.वी. गिरी

Mohammad Hidayatullah
मोहम्मद हिदायतुल्लाह

Mohammad Hidayatullah remains the **only person** to have served as **Acting President of India** twice.

- **First Instance (July 1969 – August 1969):**
 - After the sudden death of **President Zakir Husain** on **3 May 1969**, Vice President **V. V. Giri** became Acting President.
 - When Giri resigned on **20 July 1969** to contest the Presidential election, the **Chief Justice of India, Mohammad Hidayatullah**, was appointed as **Acting President of India**.
 - He continued till **24 August 1969**, when **V. V. Giri** was elected and assumed office as President.
- **Second Instance (October 1982):**
 - In **1982**, President **Zail Singh** went on a foreign tour to the USA.
 - During this period, **Mohammad Hidayatullah** (by then retired CJI and former Vice President of India, 1979–1984) acted as the **President of India**.



U.S. imposes new sanctions on ICC officials over Israel

Trump administration ramps up pressure on International Criminal Court over its targeting of Israeli leaders; ICC calls it is 'an attack on the independence of an impartial judicial institution'

GS II: International Institutions

Reuters

WASHINGTON/THE HAGUE

The United States President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday imposed sanctions on two judges and two prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC), as Washington ramped up its pressure on the war tribunal over its targeting of Israeli leaders and a past decision to investigate U.S. officials.

In a statement, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the court "a national security threat that has been an instrument for lawfare" against the United States and Israel.

Washington designated Nicolas Yann Guillou of France, Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji, Mame Mandiaye Niang of Senegal, and Kimberly Prost of Canada, according to the U.S. Treasury and State Department. All officials have been involved in cases linked to Israel and the United States.

"United States has been clear and steadfast in our opposition to the ICC's pol-



ICC judges had issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last November for alleged war crimes. REUTERS

iticization, abuse of power, disregard for our national sovereignty, and illegitimate judicial overreach," Mr. Rubio said.

The second round of sanctions comes less than three months after the administration took the unprecedented step of slapping sanctions on four separate ICC judges.

It represents a serious escalation that will likely impede the functioning of the court and the prosecutor's office as they deal with major cases, including war crime allegations against Russia over its inva-

sion of Ukraine.

ICC deplored the announcements in a statement: "These sanctions are a flagrant attack against the independence of an impartial judicial institution which operates under the mandate from 125 states parties from all regions."

"They constitute also an affront against the Court's States Parties, the rules-based international order and, above all, millions of innocent victims across the world," the court added. "The ICC will continue fulfilling mandates in strict accordance with its legal

framework, without regard to any pressure or threat."

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday welcomed the decision.

Netanyahu cheers

"I congratulate Marco Rubio who decided to impose sanctions on the judges of the International Criminal Court. This is a decisive act against a smear campaign of lies against the State of Israel and the (Israeli army)," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

ICC judges had issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli defense chief Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leader Ibrahim al-Masri last November for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Gaza conflict.

In March 2020, prosecutors opened an investigation in Afghanistan that included looking into possible crimes by U.S. troops, but since 2021, it has deprioritized the role of the U.S. and focused on alleged crimes committed by the Afghan government and the Taliban forces.

U.S. imposes new sanctions on ICC officials over Israel
अमेरिका ने इज़राइल को लेकर ICC अधिकारियों पर नए प्रतिबंध लगाए



Trump administration ramps up pressure on International Criminal Court over its targeting of Israeli leaders; ICC calls it is 'an attack on the independence of an impartial judicial institution'

ट्रम्प प्रशासन ने इज़राइली नेताओं को निशाना बनाने पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC) पर दबाव बढ़ाया; ICC ने इसे 'एक निष्पक्ष न्यायिक संस्था की स्वतंत्रता पर हमला' बताया।

- The United States President **Donald Trump's** administration on Wednesday imposed sanctions on two judges and two prosecutors at the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, as Washington ramped up its pressure on the war tribunal over its targeting of **Israeli leaders** and a past decision to investigate **U.S. officials**.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के प्रशासन ने बुधवार को **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC)** के दो न्यायाधीशों और दो अभियोजकों पर प्रतिबंध लगाए, क्योंकि **वॉशिंगटन** ने **इज़राइली नेताओं** को निशाना बनाने और अतीत में **अमेरिकी अधिकारियों** की जांच के फैसले पर युद्ध न्यायाधिकरण पर दबाव बढ़ा दिया।
- In a statement, **U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio** called the court "a national security threat that has been an instrument for lawfare" against the **United States** and **Israel**.
एक बयान में, **अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो** ने अदालत को "एक राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा खतरा बताया जो **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** और **इज़राइल** के खिलाफ **कानूनी युद्ध** का साधन रही है।
- Washington designated **Nicolas Yann Guillou of France, Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji, Mame Mandiaye Niang of Senegal, and Kimberly Prost of Canada**, according to the **U.S. Treasury and State Department**. All officials have been involved in cases linked to **Israel** and the **United States**.
अमेरिकी ट्रेज़री और विदेश विभाग के अनुसार, **वॉशिंगटन** ने **फ्रांस के निकोलस यान गुइलौ, फ़िजी की नज़हत शमीम खान, सेनेगल के ममे मंडियाए निआंग और कनाडा की किम्बर्ली प्रोस्ट** को नामित किया। सभी अधिकारी **इज़राइल** और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** से जुड़े मामलों में शामिल रहे हैं।
- "**United States** has been clear and steadfast in our opposition to the **ICC's politicization, abuse of power, disregard for our national sovereignty, and illegitimate judicial overreach**," Mr. Rubio said.
"संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने **ICC के राजनीतिकरण, शक्ति के दुरुपयोग, हमारी राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता की अनदेखी और अवैध न्यायिक अतिक्रमण** के प्रति अपने विरोध में स्पष्ट और अडिग रुख अपनाया है," श्री रुबियो ने कहा।
- The second round of sanctions comes less than three months after the administration took the unprecedented step of slapping sanctions on four separate **ICC judges**.
यह दूसरा चरण है जो तीन महीने से भी कम समय बाद आया है जब प्रशासन ने चार अलग-अलग **ICC न्यायाधीशों** पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का अभूतपूर्व कदम उठाया था।
- It represents a serious escalation that will likely impede the functioning of the court and the prosecutor's office as they deal with major cases, including war crime allegations against **Russia** over its invasion of **Ukraine**.
यह एक गंभीर वृद्धि का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है जो अदालत और अभियोजक के कार्यालय के कामकाज को बाधित कर सकता है क्योंकि वे बड़े मामलों से निपट रहे हैं, जिनमें **यूक्रेन पर रूस के आक्रमण** को लेकर **युद्ध अपराध के आरोप** भी शामिल हैं।
- **ICC** deplored the announcements in a statement: "These sanctions are a flagrant attack against the independence of an impartial judicial institution which operates under the mandate from **125 states parties** from all regions."
ICC ने एक बयान में इन घोषणाओं की निंदा की: "ये प्रतिबंध एक निष्पक्ष न्यायिक संस्था की स्वतंत्रता पर एक घोर हमला हैं, जो सभी क्षेत्रों के **125 सदस्य देशों** के जनादेश के तहत काम करती है।"
- "They constitute also an affront against the Court's States Parties, the rules-based international order and, above all, millions of innocent victims across the world," the court added.
अदालत ने आगे कहा, "ये प्रतिबंध अदालत के सदस्य देशों, नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था और सबसे बढ़कर, दुनिया भर के लाखों निर्दोष पीड़ितों के खिलाफ भी एक अपमान हैं।"
- "The **ICC** will continue fulfilling mandates in strict accordance with its legal framework, without regard to any pressure or threat."



"ICC अपने कानूनी ढांचे के अनुसार सख्ती से जनादेश को पूरा करना जारी रखेगा, चाहे कोई दबाव हो या धमकी।"

- Meanwhile, **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** on Wednesday welcomed the decision.
इसी बीच, **इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** ने बुधवार को इस फैसले का स्वागत किया।
- **Netanyahu cheers**
नेतन्याहू ने खुशी जताई
- "I congratulate **Marco Rubio** who decided to impose sanctions on the judges of the **International Criminal Court**. This is a decisive act against a smear campaign of lies against the **State of Israel** and the **(Israeli army)**," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement.
"मैं **मार्को रुबियो** को बधाई देता हूँ जिन्होंने **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अपराधिक न्यायालय** के न्यायाधीशों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का फैसला किया। यह **इज़राइल राज्य** और **(इज़राइली सेना)** के खिलाफ झूठ के smear campaign के खिलाफ एक निर्णायक कदम है," श्री नेतन्याहू के कार्यालय ने एक बयान में कहा।
- **ICC judges** had issued arrest warrants for **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**, former Israeli defense chief **Yoav Gallant**, and **Hamas leader Ibrahim al-Masri** last November for alleged **war crimes and crimes against humanity** during the **Gaza conflict**.
ICC न्यायाधीशों ने पिछले नवंबर में **गाजा संघर्ष** के दौरान कथित **युद्ध अपराधों और मानवता के खिलाफ अपराधों** के लिए **इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू**, पूर्व इज़राइली रक्षा प्रमुख **योआव गैलेंट**, और **हमास नेता इब्राहिम अल-मसरी** के खिलाफ गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किए थे।
- In **March 2020**, prosecutors opened an investigation in **Afghanistan** that included looking into possible crimes by **U.S. troops**, but since **2021**, it has deprioritized the role of the **U.S.** and focused on alleged crimes committed by the **Afghan government** and the **Taliban forces**.
मार्च 2020 में अभियोजकों ने **अफगानिस्तान** में एक जांच शुरू की थी जिसमें **अमेरिकी सैनिकों** द्वारा संभावित अपराधों की जांच शामिल थी, लेकिन **2021** से, इसने **अमेरिका** की भूमिका को कम प्राथमिकता दी और **अफगान सरकार** और **तालिबान बलों** द्वारा किए गए कथित अपराधों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The headquarters of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is in Hague, Netherlands.
- **Rome statute which was adopted by UN GA 1998** entered into force in 2002.
- **Member countries:** 123 Member countries
- However, countries like India, China, Iraq, North Korea, and Turkey have not signed the Rome statute and are not part of the ICC.
- USA, Russia, and Israel have signed but not ratified the Rome statute.
- **Jurisdiction of ICC:** It is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals.
- It has jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for four identified international **crimes of Genocide, war crimes, Crimes against humanity and recently included Crime of aggression**.
- It is intended to complement the existing national judicial system. Therefore it exercises jurisdiction only in certain cases i.e. when the national courts are unable/unwilling to prosecute criminals.
- The court was established to fight impunity and bring to justice criminals under international law regardless of their rank and stature.



How Does ICC function?

- The office carries out its investigation through the office of the prosecutor and has 18 judges.
- Both the judges and prosecutor have a non-renewable 9-year term.
- There are pre-trial, trial and appellate benches in the ICC.
- The prosecutors conduct a preliminary examination in a matter before seeking permission from the pre-trial judges to open and full investigation.
- The initial investigation must conclude the **crimes are of sufficient gravity**.

Limitations of ICC

- It does not have its own enforcement body. It relies on cooperation with countries' worldwide support.
- It gives ICC less deterrent value as the potential perpetrators of the war crimes know that they can avoid the ICC judgement by taking over the government and refusing to cooperate.
- **The pace of investigation and judgement:** After 19 years of being active the court has convicted only 10% accused in a small number of cases and acquitted four individuals.
- Therefore some question time, effort, and financial resources invested in the court by the member countries is worth the outcome.
- The court may shy away from taking western powers like the US. This was pointed out when in 2019 the court denied permission to start an investigation into Afghanistan and recently when the current prosecutor wanted to restart the investigation after the Taliban takeover, because of scarcity/paucity of resources the prosecutor intended to prioritise the investigation into a crime committed by the Taliban.

Biased against Africa; a tool of western imperialism

- Barring the recent years, the court since its formation largely took up the investigation into alleged crimes committed by African countries.
- Nearly all the cases in the trial stage before the court are from Africa.
- African Union in 2016 had endorsed a proposal led by Kenya for the mass withdrawal of African countries from Rome's Statute.

In the case of member of countries the prosecutor can open and investigate in three ways:

- When the case is referred by a member country in its own territory.
- When a case is referred by UNSC.
- When the prosecutor takes up the case Propio Motu (on his own)



In the case of the **non-member states** investigation can be opened in the following ways

- If the alleged crimes were perpetrated by non-members in a member's state.
- If the non-member accepts the jurisdiction of the ICC.
- When UNSC authorises it.

Why India has not signed the Rome Statute

- On the principle ground of that ICC provides extraordinary power to UNSC to bind non-state parties to the jurisdiction of the ICC.
- It violates the Vienna Convention on the **Laws of Treaties** which states that no sovereign country can be forced to accede to or be bound by a treaty that it has not accepted.
- India objects to the omission of crimes such as cross-border terrorism, use of nuclear weapons, and weapon of mass destruction from the jurisdiction/scope of ICC.
- Since India has been prone to insurgency and militancy it did not want its security personnel to become vulnerable to ICC's jurisdiction as India gives extraordinary power to its security forces.
- India contests that its national judicial system is competent enough and capable of trying any such individuals if required.

PATRIOTICIAS



Conflict, poverty, climate change fuel Nigeria's worsening malnutrition crisis

Over 600 children have died within six months, with cases of severe acute malnutrition rising by 208% compared to the previous year, says MSF; food insecurity also fuels armed conflict, as desperate families may turn to armed groups in exchange for food, thereby turning it into a vicious cycle

GS II: Africa

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sharmada Venkatasubramanian

Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa, and one of its largest oil producers. Yet, the northern states of the country are in the grip of an acute malnutrition crisis. Over 600 children have died in northern Nigeria in the last six months due to malnourishment, and according to the medical charity, Doctors Without Borders (MSF), the region is "currently facing an alarming malnutrition crisis".

Between January and June this year, cases of severe acute malnutrition among children rose by 208% compared to the corresponding period last year, marking a dramatic escalation of an already entrenched emergency.

In a statement released on July 25, the charity said: "Unfortunately, 652 children have already died in our facilities since the beginning of 2025 due to a lack of timely access to care". The statement also noted that adults, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women, are being severely affected by this public health emergency. An MSF survey of 750 mothers showed that "more than half of adult caregivers were acutely malnourished, including 13% with severe acute malnutrition." According to a study,



Alarming crisis: Nigeria's healthcare system suffers from severe underfunding, poor infrastructure, and staff shortages, leaving more than 6.2 million children remain unvaccinated. AFP

the nutrition crisis in Nigeria severely threatens the health of pregnant women and their babies, increasing risks of maternal complications, and long-term developmental impairments.

These figures point to more than just a health crisis. They reflect the everyday realities of a region battered by conflict, climate stress, and poverty. Why are children in Nigeria's north still starving, and what makes this region so vulnerable to hunger?

Ongoing crisis

Northern Nigeria is caught in an ongoing crisis of conflict and displacement that has uprooted millions over the years. The northeast continues to reel under the Boko Haram insurgency, while the northwest struggles with banditry and re-

source-driven clashes, together creating a cycle of instability and forced migration across the region.

Years of such relentless armed conflict have forced millions from their homes, cut families off from farmland and markets, and left civilians as direct victims of violence, creating a cycle of displacement and deepening food insecurity across the region.

Since 2002, the Boko Haram insurgency has torn through northeast Nigeria, displacing millions through waves of killings, abductions, and the destruction of entire communities. Women have borne a disproportionate share of this violence, often targeted in ways that leave lasting social and economic scars. This widespread upheaval has eroded livelihoods, disrupted agricul-

ture, and severed access to essential food and healthcare services. As a result, malnutrition has surged.

Epidemiological studies have suggested that without the Boko Haram conflict, rates of childhood wasting would be up to 13 percentage points lower, a reduction that could have spared thousands of children from malnutrition-related illness and death.

Climate pressures

According to the Nigerian study, climate change contributes to higher rates of acute child malnutrition, or wasting. As per a UNICEF report, severe wasting is responsible for one in five deaths among children under the age of five globally. Since wasting reflects short-term nutritional stress, it often serves as an early warning indicator that communities are struggling to cope with climate shocks. This is especially relevant in farming communities where people depend on predictable weather to grow food and earn a living.

Nigeria is a country that has faced rising temperatures and recurrent

draughts. Northern and northeastern Nigeria are especially exposed to climate shocks, given their fragile food systems, weak public infrastructure, and persistent insecurity. These vulnerabilities compound the risk of malnutrition, as even minor disruptions in rainfall or harvests can quickly translate into food shortages and acute nutritional stress.

Weak health systems

While climate shocks and food insecurity are central drivers of child malnutrition, the crisis is compounded by another layer of vulnerability - the country's fragile health system. Nigeria's healthcare system faces deep structural challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, chronic underfunding, and a severe shortage of medical personnel.

According to the 2025 Nigeria Acute Malnutrition Disaster Brief, data from the 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey shows that more than 6.2 million children across the country had not received any vaccinations.

For many years, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) played a central role in supporting humanitarian relief in northeastern Nigeria. However, foreign assistance was sharply reduced under the Trump administration, which moved to scale back USAID, citing concerns over inefficiency and political bias.

Conflict, poverty, climate change fuel Nigeria's worsening malnutrition crisis

संघर्ष, गरीबी, जलवायु परिवर्तन नाइजीरिया के बिगड़ते कुपोषण संकट को बढ़ा रहे हैं

Over 600 children have died within six months, with cases of severe acute malnutrition rising by 208% compared to the previous year, says MSF; food



insecurity also fuels armed conflict, as desperate families may turn to armed groups in exchange for food, thereby turning it into a vicious cycle

पिछले छह महीनों में 600 से अधिक बच्चों की मृत्यु हो गई है, और गंभीर तीव्र कुपोषण के मामले पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में 208% बढ़ गए हैं, MSF ने कहा; खाद्य असुरक्षा भी सशस्त्र संघर्ष को बढ़ावा देती है, क्योंकि हताश परिवार भोजन के बदले सशस्त्र समूहों की ओर रुख कर सकते हैं, जिससे यह एक दुष्चक्र बन जाता है

Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa

नाइजीरिया अफ्रीका की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है

- **Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa, and one of its largest oil producers.** Yet, the northern states of the country are in the grip of an acute malnutrition crisis. Over **600 children** have died in northern Nigeria in the last six months due to malnourishment, and according to the medical charity, **Doctors Without Borders (MSF)**, the region is “currently facing an alarming malnutrition crisis”.

नाइजीरिया अफ्रीका की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है, और इसके सबसे बड़े तेल उत्पादकों में से एक है। फिर भी, देश के उत्तरी राज्य गंभीर कुपोषण संकट की चपेट में हैं। पिछले छह महीनों में उत्तरी नाइजीरिया में **600 से अधिक बच्चों** की मृत्यु कुपोषण के कारण हुई है, और चिकित्सा चैरिटी **डॉक्टर्स विदाउट बॉर्डर्स (MSF)** के अनुसार, यह क्षेत्र “वर्तमान में एक चिंताजनक कुपोषण संकट का सामना कर रहा है”।

- Between January and June this year, cases of severe acute malnutrition among children rose by **208%** compared to the corresponding period last year, marking a dramatic escalation of an already entrenched emergency.

इस वर्ष **जनवरी और जून** के बीच, बच्चों में गंभीर तीव्र कुपोषण के मामले पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि की तुलना में **208%** बढ़ गए, जो पहले से ही गहराई तक जमे हुए संकट की नाटकीय वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।

- In a statement released on **July 25**, the charity said: “Unfortunately, **652 children** have already died in our facilities since the beginning of **2025** due to a lack of timely access to care”. The statement also noted that adults, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women, are being severely affected by this public health emergency.

25 जुलाई को जारी एक बयान में चैरिटी ने कहा: “दुर्भाग्य से, **2025** की शुरुआत से अब तक हमारी सुविधाओं में **652 बच्चों** की मौत समय पर देखभाल न मिलने के कारण हो चुकी है।” बयान में यह भी कहा गया कि वयस्क, विशेष रूप से गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाएं, इस सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य आपात स्थिति से गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हो रही हैं।

- An **MSF survey of 750 mothers** showed that “more than half of adult caregivers were acutely malnourished, including **13%** with severe acute malnutrition.” According to a study, the nutrition crisis in Nigeria severely threatens the health of pregnant women and their babies, increasing risks of maternal complications, and long-term developmental impairments.

MSF के 750 माताओं के सर्वेक्षण से पता चला कि “आधे से अधिक वयस्क देखभालकर्ता तीव्र कुपोषित थे, जिनमें से **13%** गंभीर तीव्र कुपोषण से ग्रस्त थे।” एक अध्ययन के अनुसार, नाइजीरिया में पोषण संकट गर्भवती महिलाओं और उनके बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य को गंभीर रूप से खतरे में डालता है, मातृ जटिलताओं और दीर्घकालिक विकासात्मक हानियों का जोखिम बढ़ाता है।

- These figures point to more than just a health crisis. They reflect the everyday realities of a region battered by conflict, climate stress, and poverty. Why are children in Nigeria’s north still starving, and what makes this region so vulnerable to hunger?

ये आंकड़े केवल स्वास्थ्य संकट की ओर इशारा नहीं करते। वे संघर्ष, जलवायु दबाव और गरीबी से त्रस्त क्षेत्र की रोजमर्रा की वास्तविकताओं को दर्शाते हैं। नाइजीरिया के उत्तर में बच्चे अभी भी क्यों भूखे मर रहे हैं, और इस क्षेत्र को भूख के लिए इतना असुरक्षित क्या बनाता है?

Ongoing crisis

चल रहा संकट

- Northern Nigeria is caught in an ongoing crisis of conflict and displacement that has uprooted millions over the years. The northeast continues to reel under the **Boko Haram insurgency**, while the northwest struggles with banditry and resource-driven clashes, together creating a cycle of instability and forced migration across the region.



उत्तरी नाइजीरिया संघर्ष और विस्थापन के एक चल रहे संकट में फंसा हुआ है जिसने वर्षों से लाखों लोगों को उखाड़ फेंका है। उत्तर-पूर्व **बोको हराम विद्रोह** से जूझ रहा है, जबकि उत्तर-पश्चिम डकैतों और संसाधन-प्रेरित झड़पों से संघर्ष कर रहा है, जो मिलकर पूरे क्षेत्र में अस्थिरता और मजबूर पलायन का चक्र बना रहे हैं।

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

- 1. No delay in treating amoebic infection: Kerala health dept.**
अमीबिक संक्रमण के उपचार में कोई देरी नहीं: केरल स्वास्थ्य विभाग
- 2. Kerala to help Himachal Pradesh adopt community-based palliative care model**
हिमाचल प्रदेश को सामुदायिक-आधारित उपशामक देखभाल मॉडल अपनाने में केरल की मदद
- 3. Lok Sabha clears Bill that bans real money gaming**
लोकसभा ने वास्तविक धन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला विधेयक पारित किया
- 4. Nuclear laws and the role of Opposition**
परमाणु कानून और विपक्ष की भूमिका
- 5. Why India needs a national space law**
भारत को एक राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून की आवश्यकता क्यों है
- 6. How charge-coupled devices revolutionised digital imaging**
कैसे चार्ज-कपल्ड डिवाइस ने डिजिटल इमेजिंग में क्रांति ला दी
- 7. SEBI proposal to relax MPS, MPO norms set to benefit large firms**
बड़ी कंपनियों को लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए MPS, MPO मानदंडों में ढील देने का SEBI का प्रस्ताव
- 8. Core sector growth slows to 2% in July as fossil fuels contract**
जुलाई में जीवाश्म ईंधनों के सिकुड़ने से कोर सेक्टर की वृद्धि 2% तक धीमी हुई
- 9. Exotel unveils programmable voice infrastructure for AI agents**



AI एजेंट्स के लिए Exotel ने प्रोग्रामेबल वॉइस इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर पेश किया

10. U.S. gas-heavy power pipeline set to stoke LNG exporter tensions

अमेरिकी गैस-आधारित पावर पाइपलाइन एलएनजी निर्यातक तनाव को बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार

11.

No delay in treating amoebic infection: Kerala health dept.

Samples are sent to State Public Health Lab only for confirmatory diagnosis and identifying the species responsible for infection, and in no way it delays treatment initiation, the department says

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Health department has brushed aside speculation that there is an inordinate delay in diagnosing amoebic meningoencephalitis as samples are being sent to the State Public Health Lab.

In a statement here on Wednesday, the Health department said the microbiology lab at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital had the facility to check cerebrospinal fluid samples and make the presumptive diagnosis that it was a trophozoite causing



Increased awareness: A pond in the Kerala capital that villagers have stopped using after the emergence of the disease.

the encephalitis and treatment was initiated as soon as this happened.

The samples are sent to the State Public Health Lab only for confirmatory diag-

nosis and for identifying the amoeba species responsible for the infection and in no way it delays treatment initiation, it said. However, when test-

ing for the presence of amoeba in water samples, often repeat tests have to be done, which could take time.

Since June, the State Public Health Laboratory has had molecular diagnostic facilities to identify five common species of free living amoeba which are toxic to humans and which can cause amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare brain infection. Hence, Kerala no longer depends on diagnostic facilities outside the State, such as PGI Chandigarh, for confirmatory diagnosis of amoebic meningoencephalitis, the government added.

No delay in treating amoebic infection: Kerala health dept.

अमीबिक संक्रमण के उपचार में कोई देरी नहीं: केरल स्वास्थ्य विभाग

Samples are sent to State Public Health Lab only for confirmatory diagnosis and identifying the species responsible for infection, and in no way it delays treatment initiation, the department says.



राज्य सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रयोगशाला में नमूने केवल पुष्टिकरण निदान और संक्रमण के लिए जिम्मेदार प्रजातियों की पहचान करने के लिए भेजे जाते हैं, और किसी भी तरह से यह उपचार शुरू करने में देरी नहीं करता है, विभाग ने कहा।

- The Kerala Health department has brushed aside speculation that there is an inordinate delay in diagnosing amoebic meningoencephalitis as samples are being sent to the State Public Health Lab.
केरल स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने इस अटकल को खारिज कर दिया है कि अमीबिक मेनिंगोएन्सेफलाइटिस के निदान में अनुचित देरी हो रही है क्योंकि नमूने राज्य सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रयोगशाला में भेजे जा रहे हैं।
- In a statement here on Wednesday, the Health department said the microbiology lab at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital had the facility to check cerebrospinal fluid samples and make the presumptive diagnosis that it was a trophozoite causing the encephalitis and treatment was initiated as soon as this happened.
बुधवार को यहां दिए गए एक बयान में स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने कहा कि कोझिकोड मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल की सूक्ष्मजीवविज्ञान प्रयोगशाला में सेरेब्रोस्पाइनल द्रव नमूनों की जांच करने और प्रारंभिक निदान करने की सुविधा थी कि यह ट्रॉफोज़ोइट है जो एन्सेफलाइटिस का कारण बन रहा है और जैसे ही यह हुआ उपचार शुरू कर दिया गया।
- The samples are sent to the State Public Health Lab only for confirmatory diagnosis and for identifying the amoeba species responsible for the infection and in no way it delays treatment initiation, it said. However, when testing for the presence of amoeba in water samples, often repeat tests have to be done, which could take time.
नमूनों को केवल पुष्टिकरण निदान और संक्रमण के लिए जिम्मेदार अमीबा प्रजातियों की पहचान के लिए राज्य सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रयोगशाला में भेजा जाता है और किसी भी तरह से यह उपचार शुरू करने में देरी नहीं करता है, उसने कहा। हालांकि, जब जल नमूनों में अमीबा की उपस्थिति की जांच की जाती है, तो अक्सर बार-बार परीक्षण करने पड़ते हैं, जिसमें समय लग सकता है।
- Since June, the State Public Health Laboratory has had molecular diagnostic facilities to identify five common species of free living amoeba which are toxic to humans and which can cause amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare brain infection. Hence, Kerala no longer depends on diagnostic facilities outside the State, such as PGI Chandigarh, for confirmatory diagnosis of amoebic meningoencephalitis, the government added.
जून से, राज्य सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रयोगशाला में आणविक नैदानिक सुविधाएं हैं ताकि स्वतंत्र रूप से रहने वाले अमीबा की पाँच सामान्य प्रजातियों की पहचान की जा सके, जो मनुष्यों के लिए विषैले हैं और जो अमीबिक मेनिंगोएन्सेफलाइटिस, एक दुर्लभ मस्तिष्क संक्रमण, का कारण बन सकते हैं। इसलिए, सरकार ने कहा कि केरल अब पीजीआई चंडीगढ़ जैसी राज्य के बाहर की नैदानिक सुविधाओं पर अमीबिक मेनिंगोएन्सेफलाइटिस के पुष्टिकरण निदान के लिए निर्भर नहीं है।



Kerala to help Himachal Pradesh adopt community-based palliative care model

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Health department will offer all support to Himachal Pradesh to implement the Kerala model of community-based palliative care in all Assembly constituencies in the north Indian State.

A team from Himachal Pradesh, including the Health Minister, Health Secretary and NHM Mission Director, had visited Kerala earlier to study the State's palliative care model. They had visited Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam districts to study the deliv-



A file photo of the palliative care unit of the General Hospital on a home visit at Palluruthy in Ernakulam district. THULASI KAKKAT

ery of palliative care services closely and had expressed their appreciation for the State's universal palliative care delivery for all bed-ridden patients.

With Himachal Pradesh deciding to adopt the community-based palliative care model of Kerala, it had been decided to give training in palliative care

delivery to 70 doctors and as many nurses.

10-day training

The first team consisting of 15 nurses and 15 doctors from Himachal Pradesh were given 10 days' training in palliative care delivery. The course certificates were distributed by Health Minister Veena George at the conclusion of the training programme here on Wednesday.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Rajan Khobragade, State Nodal Officer for Palliative Care Mathew Numpeli, among others, were present.

Kerala to help Himachal Pradesh adopt community-based palliative care model

हिमाचल प्रदेश को सामुदायिक-आधारित उपशामक देखभाल मॉडल अपनाने में केरल की मदद

The Kerala Health department will offer all support to Himachal Pradesh to implement the Kerala model of community-based palliative care in all Assembly constituencies in the north Indian State.

केरल स्वास्थ्य विभाग उत्तर भारतीय राज्य हिमाचल प्रदेश में सभी विधानसभा क्षेत्रों में सामुदायिक-आधारित उपशामक देखभाल के केरल मॉडल को लागू करने के लिए पूरी सहायता प्रदान करेगा।

- A team from Himachal Pradesh, including the Health Minister, Health Secretary and NHM Mission Director, had visited Kerala earlier to study the State's palliative care model. They had visited Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam districts to study the delivery of palliative care services closely and had expressed their appreciation for the State's universal palliative care delivery for all bed-ridden patients.

हिमाचल प्रदेश की एक टीम, जिसमें स्वास्थ्य मंत्री, स्वास्थ्य सचिव और एनएचएम मिशन निदेशक शामिल थे, ने राज्य के उपशामक देखभाल मॉडल का अध्ययन करने के लिए पहले केरल का दौरा किया था। उन्होंने उपशामक देखभाल सेवाओं की डिलीवरी का गहन अध्ययन करने के लिए तिरुवनंतपुरम और एर्नाकुलम



जिलों का दौरा किया था और राज्य की सभी बिस्तर पर पड़े मरीजों के लिए सार्वभौमिक उपशामक देखभाल डिलीवरी की सराहना की थी।

- With **Himachal Pradesh** deciding to adopt the community-based palliative care model of **Kerala**, it had been decided to give training in palliative care delivery to **70 doctors** and as many **nurses**.

जब **हिमाचल प्रदेश** ने **केरल** के सामुदायिक-आधारित उपशामक देखभाल मॉडल को अपनाने का निर्णय लिया, तो यह तय किया गया कि उपशामक देखभाल डिलीवरी में **70 डॉक्टरों** और उतनी ही **नर्सों** को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा।

- **10-day training**
10-दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण
- The first team consisting of **15 nurses** and **15 doctors** from **Himachal Pradesh** were given **10 days' training** in palliative care delivery. The course certificates were distributed by **Health Minister Veena George** at the conclusion of the training programme here on **Wednesday**.

हिमाचल प्रदेश से **15 नर्सों** और **15 डॉक्टरों** की पहली टीम को उपशामक देखभाल डिलीवरी में **10 दिनों का प्रशिक्षण** दिया गया। प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के समापन पर यहां **बुधवार** को **स्वास्थ्य मंत्री वीणा जॉर्ज** द्वारा पाठ्यक्रम प्रमाण पत्र वितरित किए गए।

- **Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Rajan Khobragade, State Nodal Officer for Palliative Care Mathew Numpeli**, among others, were present.

अन्य लोगों के साथ **अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव (स्वास्थ्य) राजन खोब्रागड़े**, राज्य उपशामक देखभाल नोडल अधिकारी **मैथ्यू नम्पेली** उपस्थित थे।

India successfully test-fires Agni-5 intermediate-range ballistic missile

GS III: Defence
The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

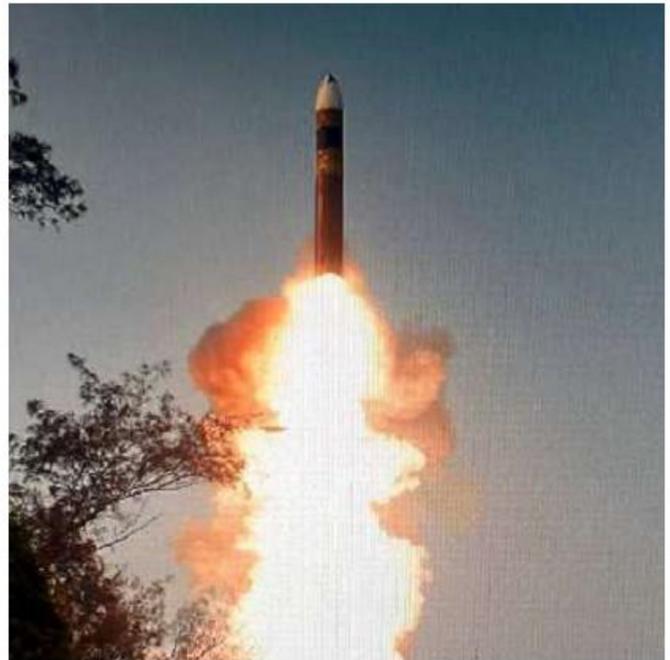
India on Wednesday successfully test-fired its intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry said the launch validated all operational and technical parameters and was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command. "The intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 was successfully test-fired from Chandipur on August 20. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters," the Ministry said.

The missile tested on Wednesday was a variant of Agni-5, India's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of 5,000 km. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the system has been developed keeping in view the country's security requirements.

Previous trial

The previous trial of Agni-5 was conducted on March 11, 2024, when the DRDO successfully tested the missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle technology, allowing it to strike multiple targets with a single launch.



The intermediate-range Agni-5 missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. FILE PHOTO



India successfully test-fires Agni-5 intermediate-range ballistic missile

भारत ने सफलतापूर्वक अग्नि-5 मध्यम-दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल का परीक्षण किया

India on Wednesday successfully test-fired its intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

भारत ने बुधवार को ओडिशा के चांदीपुर स्थित इंटीग्रेटेड टेस्ट रेंज से अपनी मध्यम-दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल अग्नि-5 का सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया।

- In a statement, the **Defence Ministry** said the launch validated all operational and technical parameters and was conducted under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command**. "The intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 was successfully test-fired from Chandipur on **August 20**. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters," the Ministry said. रक्षा मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा कि प्रक्षेपण ने सभी परिचालन और तकनीकी मानकों को सत्यापित किया और यह **स्ट्रेटेजिक फोर्सज कमांड** के तत्वावधान में किया गया। "मध्यम-दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल अग्नि-5 का **20 अगस्त** को चांदीपुर से सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया गया। प्रक्षेपण ने सभी परिचालन और तकनीकी मानकों को सत्यापित किया," मंत्रालय ने कहा।
- The missile tested on **Wednesday** was a variant of **Agni-5, India's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)** with a range of **5,000 km**. Designed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, the system has been developed keeping in view the country's security requirements. बुधवार को परीक्षण की गई मिसाइल अग्नि-5, भारत की अंतरमहाद्वीपीय बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल (ICBM) का एक संस्करण थी, जिसकी मारक क्षमता **5,000 किमी** है। इसे रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO) द्वारा डिजाइन किया गया है और यह प्रणाली देश की सुरक्षा आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखकर विकसित की गई है।

Previous trial पिछला परीक्षण

- The previous trial of **Agni-5** was conducted on **March 11, 2024**, when the **DRDO** successfully tested the missile equipped with **Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology**, allowing it to strike multiple targets with a single launch. अग्नि-5 का पिछला परीक्षण **11 मार्च, 2024** को किया गया था, जब **DRDO** ने इस मिसाइल का सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया था, जिसे **मल्टीपल इंडिपेंडेंटली टारगेटेबल री-एंट्री व्हीकल (MIRV) तकनीक** से सुसज्जित किया गया था, जिससे यह एक ही प्रक्षेपण में कई लक्ष्यों को भेदने में सक्षम हो गई थी।



Lok Sabha clears Bill that bans real money gaming

The Bill targets companies offering fantasy sports and card games in which, according to the IT Minister, 'lifetime savings evaporate'; Speaker Om Birla says the 'good Bill' is in 'national interest'

GS III: Real Money Gaming

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, by a voice vote on Wednesday.

The Bill seeks "to prohibit the offering, operation, facilitation, advertisement, promotion and participation in online money games", targeting firms that offer fantasy sports and card games where users can deposit and risk money.

Speaker Om Birla urged MPs to unite around the Bill and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw referred to cross-party support for the goal of the proposed law. "This is a good Bill. We are seeing suicides and families getting destroyed every day [due to these platforms] ... Bringing such a Bill is in the national interest," Mr. Birla said.

"[T]he lack of a coherent and enabling legal framework has hindered the sector's structured development and the promotion of responsible gaming practices, requiring urgent policy intervention and support mechanisms," the Bill's introduction said.

Sweeping measures

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 prohibits offering, operation, facilitation, advertisement, promotion and participation in online money games

- 'Real money gaming' refers to platforms such as Dream11 and PokerBaazi where players risk their money for winnings
- The industry has argued that fantasy games are those of 'skill' and cannot be regulated by States as gambling

- The Bill makes the distinction between games of chance and skill irrelevant, as it seeks to ban all "online money gaming"
- The industry says it has annual revenues exceeding ₹31,000 crores and that it employs over two lakh people



PUNISHMENTS

- The Bill proposes imprisonment up to three years and/or fine of up to ₹1 crore for entities offering or facilitating online money gaming
- The Bill also seeks to prohibit advertisement related to online money games and bars banks and financial institutions from transferring funds for any of such games
- Advertising can attract imprisonment up to two years and/or fine up to ₹50 lakh. Facilitating financial transactions can lead to imprisonment up to three years and/or fine up to ₹1 crore

The Bill provides for the creation of an authority that will promote e-sports, which the government is keen to develop as a creative and recreational industry. "[T]he parallel proliferation of online money games ... offering monetary returns against user deposits has led to serious social, financial, psychological and public health harms..." it added.

"Online money games have become a matter of great concern in our society," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "Many people get addict-

ed, lifetime savings evaporate in games, and with the algorithms in use, there may be untold levels of fraud and cheating," he added.

The Bill was not released in draft form for consultation. Mr. Vaishnaw said it did not make sense to open a prohibition law up for consultation and pointed out that the government had been engaging with the real money gaming industry for years. "There is political unanimity on the problem of online money gaming," he

said. "A political call had to be taken on what had to be done," Union IT Secretary S. Krishnan told *The Hindu*. "The industry has been saying that they wanted clarity on how they should be regulated... So that clarity has been provided."

The Bill may face pushback from the industry. "If passed in its current form, the Bill is likely to face a constitutional challenge on grounds of trade restriction and legislative competence," Vidushpat Singhania, managing partner at Krida Legal, said.

Lok Sabha clears Bill that bans real money gaming

लोकसभा ने वास्तविक धन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला विधेयक पारित किया

The Bill targets companies offering fantasy sports and card games in which, according to the IT Minister, 'lifetime savings evaporate'; Speaker Om Birla says the 'good Bill' is in 'national interest'.

यह विधेयक उन कंपनियों को लक्षित

करता है जो फैंटेसी स्पोर्ट्स और ताश के खेल प्रदान करती हैं, जिनमें आईटी मंत्री के अनुसार 'जीवनभर की बचत समाप्त हो जाती है'; लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला कहते हैं कि यह 'अच्छा विधेयक' 'राष्ट्रीय हित' में है।

- The Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, by a voice vote on Wednesday. लोकसभा ने बुधवार को ऑनलाइन गेमिंग के प्रोत्साहन और विनियमन विधेयक, 2025 को ध्वनिमत से पारित किया।
- The Bill seeks "to prohibit the offering, operation, facilitation, advertisement, promotion and participation in online money games", targeting firms that offer fantasy sports and card games where users can deposit and risk money.



यह विधेयक “ऑनलाइन मनी गेम्स” में प्रस्ताव, संचालन, सुविधा, विज्ञापन, प्रचार और भागीदारी पर प्रतिबंध” लगाने की मांग करता है, और उन कंपनियों को लक्षित करता है जो **फैंटेसी स्पोर्ट्स** और **ताश के खेल** प्रदान करती हैं, जहाँ उपयोगकर्ता पैसे जमा करके जोखिम उठाते हैं।

- **Speaker Om Birla** urged MPs to unite around the Bill and **IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** referred to cross-party support for the goal of the proposed law. “This is a good Bill. We are seeing suicides and families getting destroyed every day [due to these platforms] ... Bringing such a Bill is in the national interest,” Mr. Birla said.

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला ने सांसदों से विधेयक के समर्थन में एकजुट होने का आग्रह किया और **आईटी मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव** ने प्रस्तावित कानून के उद्देश्य के लिए दलगत समर्थन का उल्लेख किया। “यह एक अच्छा विधेयक है। हम हर दिन [इन प्लेटफार्मों के कारण] आत्महत्याएँ और परिवारों का बर्बाद होना देख रहे हैं ... ऐसा विधेयक लाना राष्ट्रीय हित में है,” श्री बिड़ला ने कहा।

- “[T]he lack of a coherent and enabling legal framework has hindered the sector’s structured development and the promotion of responsible gaming practices, requiring urgent policy intervention and support mechanisms,” the Bill’s introduction said.
विधेयक की प्रस्तावना में कहा गया कि “[सुसंगत और सक्षम कानूनी ढाँचे की कमी ने इस क्षेत्र के संरचित विकास और जिम्मेदार गेमिंग प्रथाओं के प्रचार को बाधित किया है, जिसके लिए त्वरित नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप और समर्थन तंत्र की आवश्यकता है।]”
- The Bill provides for the creation of an authority that will promote **e-sports**, which the government is keen to develop as a creative and recreational industry. “[T]he parallel proliferation of **online money games** ... offering monetary returns against user deposits has led to serious social, financial, psychological and public health harms...,” it added.
विधेयक एक प्राधिकरण के गठन का प्रावधान करता है जो **ई-स्पोर्ट्स** को बढ़ावा देगा, जिसे सरकार एक रचनात्मक और मनोरंजक उद्योग के रूप में विकसित करना चाहती है। इसमें कहा गया कि “[ऑनलाइन मनी गेम्स का समानांतर प्रसार ... उपयोगकर्ता जमा राशि पर मौद्रिक रिटर्न की पेशकश ने गंभीर सामाजिक, वित्तीय, मनोवैज्ञानिक और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य हानियों को जन्म दिया है...।]”
- “**Online money games** have become a matter of great concern in our society,” Mr. Vaishnaw said. “Many people get addicted, lifetime savings evaporate in games, and with the algorithms in use, there may be untold levels of fraud and cheating,” he added.
“ऑनलाइन मनी गेम्स” हमारे समाज में बड़ी चिंता का विषय बन गए हैं,” श्री वैष्णव ने कहा। “कई लोग इसके आदी हो जाते हैं, खेलों में जीवनभर की बचत समाप्त हो जाती है, और उपयोग किए जा रहे एल्गोरिदम के साथ धोखाधड़ी और छल के अज्ञात स्तर हो सकते हैं,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- The Bill was not released in draft form for consultation. Mr. Vaishnaw said it did not make sense to open a prohibition law up for consultation and pointed out that the government had been engaging with the **real money gaming industry** for years.
विधेयक को परामर्श के लिए मसौदा रूप में जारी नहीं किया गया था। श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि किसी निषेध कानून को परामर्श के लिए खोलना समझदारी नहीं है और यह बताया कि सरकार वर्षों से **रीयल मनी गेमिंग उद्योग** के साथ संवाद कर रही है।
- “There is political unanimity on the problem of **online money gaming**,” he said. “A political call had to be taken on what had to be done,” **Union IT Secretary S. Krishnan** told The Hindu. “The industry has been saying that they wanted clarity on how they should be regulated... So that clarity has been provided.”
उन्होंने कहा, “ऑनलाइन मनी गेमिंग की समस्या पर राजनीतिक सर्वसम्मति है।” **केंद्रीय आईटी सचिव एस. कृष्णन** ने द हिंदू को बताया, “यह तय करने के लिए एक राजनीतिक निर्णय लेना पड़ा कि क्या किया जाना है। उद्योग कह रहा था कि वे यह स्पष्टता चाहते हैं कि उन्हें कैसे विनियमित किया जाना चाहिए... तो वह स्पष्टता प्रदान कर दी गई है।”
- The Bill may face pushback from the industry. “If passed in its current form, the Bill is likely to face a constitutional challenge on grounds of trade restriction and legislative competence,” **Vidushpat Singhania**, managing partner at **Krida Legal**, said.
यह विधेयक उद्योग से विरोध का सामना कर सकता है। **क्रीडा लीगल** के प्रबंध भागीदार **विदुष्यत सिंगानिया** ने कहा, “यदि इसे अपने वर्तमान रूप में पारित किया गया, तो यह विधेयक व्यापार प्रतिबंध और विधायी क्षमता के आधार पर एक संवैधानिक चुनौती का सामना कर सकता है।”



Global solar alliance plans to establish research hub in India

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

By the end of the year, the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** will set up 17 centres of excellence in as many countries, and going ahead, establish a **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** in India, akin to a “**Silicon Valley for solar**”, Ashish Khanna, director general, ISA, said at lecture here on Wednesday.

These 17 centres, which Mr. Khanna did not disclose, will provide testing, lab training, and a “startup ecosystem” in “**Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-like**” universities, and the GCC would act as a “hub” connecting all these centres, Mr. Khanna said at an event organised by think tank The Energy and Resources Institute, adding, “Those 17 could soon

rise to 50 as several countries are looking to India to improve their human capability.”

The ISA is a collaborative body set up by India and France, conceptualised on the sidelines of the **climate Conference of Parties in 2015 in Paris**. It is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, and has a membership of around 100 countries.

“Several countries are looking to engineers from India to supply the vital human capital necessary to implement solar projects. This includes digital tenders, operation and maintenance and all the reskilling that is needed in the world,” he added.

India has cumulatively installed about 119 **giga-watts (GW) of solar capacity** as of July 2025, according to official estimates.

rise to 50 as several countries are looking to India to improve their human capability.”

ये 17 केंद्र, जिनका खुलासा श्री खन्ना ने नहीं किया, परीक्षण, लैब प्रशिक्षण और “स्टार्टअप इकोसिस्टम” प्रदान करेंगे, जो “**भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) जैसे**” विश्वविद्यालयों में होंगे, और **जीसीसी** इन सभी केंद्रों को जोड़ने वाला “हब” होगा। श्री खन्ना ने यह बात **द एनर्जी एंड रिसोर्स इंस्टीट्यूट** द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में कही और जोड़ा कि “ये 17 जल्द ही बढ़कर 50 हो सकते हैं क्योंकि कई देश अपनी मानवीय क्षमता को सुधारने के लिए **भारत** की ओर देख रहे हैं।”

- The **ISA** is a collaborative body set up by **India** and **France**, conceptualised on the sidelines of the **climate Conference of Parties in 2015 in Paris**. It is headquartered in **Gurugram, Haryana**, and has a membership of around **100 countries**.

आईएसए एक सहयोगी निकाय है जिसे **भारत** और **फ्रांस** ने स्थापित किया था, जिसका विचार **2015 में पेरिस में आयोजित जलवायु पक्षों के सम्मेलन** के दौरान किया गया था। इसका मुख्यालय **गुरुग्राम, हरियाणा** में है और इसमें लगभग **100 देशों** की सदस्यता है।

- “Several countries are looking to engineers from **India** to supply the vital human capital necessary to implement solar projects. This includes digital tenders, operation and maintenance and all the reskilling that is needed in the world,” he added.

“कई देश सौर परियोजनाओं को लागू करने के लिए आवश्यक महत्वपूर्ण मानव पूंजी की आपूर्ति हेतु **भारत** के इंजीनियरों की ओर देख रहे हैं। इसमें डिजिटल टेंडर, संचालन और रखरखाव और दुनिया में आवश्यक सभी रिस्किलिंग शामिल है,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।

Global solar alliance plans to establish research hub in India

वैश्विक सौर गठबंधन भारत में अनुसंधान केंद्र स्थापित करने की योजना बना रहा है

By the end of the year, the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** will set up 17 centres of excellence in as many countries, and going ahead, establish a **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** in India, akin to a “**Silicon Valley for solar**”, Ashish Khanna, director general, ISA, said at lecture here on **Wednesday**.

इस वर्ष के अंत तक, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन (ISA) उतने ही देशों में 17 उत्कृष्टता केंद्र स्थापित करेगा, और आगे चलकर भारत में एक ग्लोबल कैपेबिलिटी सेंटर (GCC) स्थापित करेगा, जो “सौर ऊर्जा के लिए सिलिकॉन वैली” जैसा होगा, यह बात आईएसए के महानिदेशक आशीष खन्ना ने बुधवार को यहां एक व्याख्यान में कही।

- These **17 centres**, which Mr. Khanna did not disclose, will provide testing, lab training, and a “startup ecosystem” in “**Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-like**” universities, and the **GCC** would act as a “hub” connecting all these centres, Mr. Khanna said at an event organised by think tank **The Energy and Resources Institute**, adding, “Those **17** could soon



- **India** has cumulatively installed about **119 gigawatts (GW)** of solar capacity as of **July 2025**, according to official estimates.
आधिकारिक अनुमान के अनुसार, भारत ने जुलाई 2025 तक लगभग 119 गीगावाट (GW) सौर क्षमता स्थापित की है।

Nuclear laws and the role of Opposition

GS III: Nuclear Energy

Political parties in India, especially the Opposition, will soon need to take a view on a critical subject with a bearing on the country's energy security and climate change mitigation. The proposal to amend the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA), 2010**, and the **Atomic Energy Act (AEA), 1962** – which in the past witnessed intense debate – sooner or later, is expected to come up in Parliament.

With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance government indicating its intention to introduce it during the monsoon session, Parliament will revisit the issue whenever the Bills are introduced.

The plan is to amend the CLNDA and the AEA to address the vexatious issue of liability on the suppliers of equipment and permit private parties in the field of nuclear energy, respectively.

The **India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement** and the enactment of the CLNDA led to a series of standoffs between the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government and Opposition parties – the BJP and the Left parties led by CPI(M).

Historical context

Fifteen years ago, the government introduced a Bill to write laws for compensation to the people for nuclear accidents, as India was not a party to any of the existing conventions. Parliament was engaged in a lengthy debate, as the government preferred the passage of liability along the lines of international covenants.

Lack of requisite strength in the Rajya Sabha, dreadful memories of the suffering of people from the 1984 Bhopal gas leak, the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and the damage to the nuclear reactor at Fukushima, Japan, following an earthquake, provided the backdrop. Sensing an opportunity, the combined opposition pressed to raise the compensation bar on suppliers of nuclear reactor equipment and beyond the immediate



K. V. Prasad

is a senior Delhi-based journalist and authored a book *Indian Parliament Shaping Foreign Policy*

The current issues have long-term implications, and there is a need for a well-rounded discussion

compensation liability on the operator. The insertion of the clause rendered the Act dead on arrival. Western country equipment suppliers shied away. An attempt to tweak it a decade ago made little difference, and international response remains lukewarm.

In 2007, during the debate around the nuclear deal, questions were raised about whether it was considering amending the AEA, allowing private sector participation. The government then noted that the 1997 report of the Dr. Raja Ramanna Committee had been examined, and a review of the Act had been under consideration since then. Now both issues are scheduled to return on Parliament's agenda.

Raising concerns

In February this year, the Congress raised objections to the announcement to amend the Acts. It said the move dilutes accountability of suppliers, raises domestic risk, and protects equipment suppliers, reflecting the Convention on Supplementary Compensation, compromising the citizens' safety, and leaning in favour of international corporations. The party also alleged that the move was intended to appease foreign interests, particularly France and the U.S., ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.

Back in 2010, then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stated that the process for compensation for nuclear accidents began in 1999, and such a law was needed. The government then dismissed claims that the proposed law was timed with a visit by President Barack Obama.

Now, the central issue is whether the Congress will take a studied stance on the proposed legislation. There is a serious debate taking place outside on the move to build small modular reactors, with many countries vying to have a piece of the pie. The contribution of energy from

nuclear power is estimated to be slightly over 3% of the total power generation. At the end of last year, the installed capacity of 24 nuclear power plants stood at 8.8 GW, the government informed Parliament. This was when the country set a target of 10 GW by the year 2000. The government now aims for 22.48 GW by 2031-32 and an ambitious 100 GW by 2047.

In the past, the Opposition took an about-turn on three key issues. At the turn of the century, opposition led to a delay in enacting an amendment to the Patents Act, 1970. Eventually, after a change of sides, the Opposition's support resulted in the mandatory amendment. A decade ago, on two other contentious issues, the Opposition stalled laws, one on insurance law to raise the foreign direct investment ceiling, and the ratification of the exchange of enclaves with Bangladesh under the Land Border Agreement. Finally, these proposed laws were enacted with the then-Opposition offering support, with minor or no concessions. Leaders across the aisle walked together to arrive at an agreed position as the governments of the day worked, in their assessment, to further the national interest.

Need for a debate

Today, the NDA government does not have to look across the aisle for support.

The current issues have long-term implications, and there is a need for a well-rounded discussion that takes into account all factors around nuclear energy, the shift towards small modular reactors, the larger question of disposal of nuclear waste, and allied subjects. The Opposition should play a leading role in initiating this discussion and decide accordingly.

Otherwise, during a debate on a contentious issue two decades ago, a member on the Treasury Benches remarked to another member of the Opposition that a change of sides should not result in a change of stand.



Nuclear laws and the role of Opposition परमाणु कानून और विपक्ष की भूमिका

Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA) and Atomic Energy Act (AEA) Amendments

नाभिकीय क्षति हेतु दीवानी दायित्व अधिनियम (CLNDA) और परमाणु ऊर्जा अधिनियम (AEA) में संशोधन

- Political parties in India, especially the **Opposition**, will soon need to take a view on a critical subject with a bearing on the country's **energy security** and **climate change mitigation**.
भारत की राजनीतिक पार्टियों को, विशेषकर **विपक्ष** को, जल्द ही एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर राय बनानी होगी जिसका संबंध देश की **ऊर्जा सुरक्षा** और **जलवायु परिवर्तन शमन** से है।
- The proposal to amend the **CLNDA, 2010**, and the **AEA, 1962** — which in the past witnessed intense debate — sooner or later, is expected to come up in **Parliament**.
CLNDA, 2010 और **AEA, 1962** में संशोधन के प्रस्ताव — जिन पर पहले गहन बहस हो चुकी है — जल्द या बाद में **संसद** में आने की उम्मीद है।
- With the **BJP-led NDA government** indicating its intention to introduce it during the **monsoon session**, Parliament will revisit the issue whenever the Bills are introduced.
भाजपा-नेतृत्व वाली एनडीए सरकार ने इसे **मानसून सत्र** में पेश करने का संकेत दिया है, और जैसे ही बिल पेश होंगे, संसद इस मुद्दे पर फिर से विचार करेगी।
- The plan is to amend the CLNDA and the AEA to address the vexatious issue of liability on the suppliers of equipment and permit private parties in the field of nuclear energy, respectively.**
योजना **CLNDA** और **AEA** में संशोधन कर उपकरण आपूर्तिकर्ताओं पर **दायित्व** के विवादास्पद मुद्दे को सुलझाने और परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में **निजी पक्षों** को अनुमति देने की है।
- The **India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement** and the enactment of the **CLNDA** led to a series of standoffs between the **Congress-led UPA government** and **Opposition parties** — the **BJP** and the **Left parties led by CPI(M)**.
भारत-अमेरिका असैनिक परमाणु समझौता और **CLNDA** के लागू होने से **कांग्रेस-नेतृत्व वाली यूपीए सरकार** और **विपक्षी दल** — **भाजपा** और **माकपा** नेतृत्व वाले **वाम दलों** के बीच कई टकराव हुए।

Historical context ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- Fifteen years ago, the **government introduced a Bill to write laws for compensation to the people for nuclear accidents, as India was not a party to any of the existing conventions**.
पंद्रह वर्ष पहले, सरकार ने **नाभिकीय दुर्घटनाओं** के लिए जनता को **मुआवजा** देने हेतु कानून बनाने के लिए एक विधेयक पेश किया था, क्योंकि भारत मौजूदा किसी भी कन्वेंशन का पक्षकार नहीं था।
- Parliament was engaged in a lengthy debate, as the government preferred the passage of liability along the lines of **international covenants**.
संसद में लंबी बहस चली, क्योंकि सरकार दायित्व को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समझौतों** की तर्ज पर पारित करना चाहती थी।
- Lack of requisite strength in the **Rajya Sabha**, dreadful memories of the **1984 Bhopal gas leak**, the **Gulf of Mexico oil spill**, and the **Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster** in Japan following an earthquake, provided the backdrop.
राज्यसभा में आवश्यक बहुमत की कमी, **1984 भोपाल गैस त्रासदी**, **गल्प ऑफ मेक्सिको ऑयल स्पिल**, और जापान में भूकंप के बाद हुई **फुकुशिमा परमाणु आपदा** ने पृष्ठभूमि तैयार की।
- Sensing an opportunity, the **combined opposition** pressed to raise the **compensation bar** on suppliers of nuclear reactor equipment and beyond the immediate liability on the operator.
अवसर देखते हुए, **संयुक्त विपक्ष** ने परमाणु रिएक्टर उपकरण आपूर्तिकर्ताओं पर **मुआवजा सीमा** बढ़ाने और ऑपरेटर पर तत्काल दायित्व से आगे जाने का दबाव डाला।



- The insertion of the clause rendered the **Act dead on arrival**. Western country equipment suppliers shied away.
इस धारा को जोड़ने से अधिनियम शुरू होते ही निष्प्रभावी हो गया। पश्चिमी देशों के उपकरण आपूर्तिकर्ता पीछे हट गए।
- An attempt to tweak it a **decade ago** made little difference, and **international response** remains lukewarm.
इसे एक दशक पहले बदलने के प्रयास से कोई बड़ा फर्क नहीं पड़ा और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रिया** अब भी ठंडी बनी रही।
- In **2007**, during the debate around the **nuclear deal**, questions were raised about whether it was considering amending the **AEA**, allowing **private sector participation**.
2007 में, **परमाणु समझौते** पर बहस के दौरान यह सवाल उठे कि क्या **AEA** में संशोधन कर **निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी** की अनुमति दी जा रही है।
- The government then noted that the **1997 report of the Dr. Raja Ramanna Committee** had been examined, and a review of the Act had been under consideration since then.
सरकार ने तब कहा कि **1997 की डॉ. राजा रमन्ना समिति की रिपोर्ट** की समीक्षा की गई है और तब से अधिनियम की समीक्षा पर विचार चल रहा है।
- Now both issues are scheduled to return on **Parliament's agenda**.
अब दोनों मुद्दे **संसद के एजेंडे** पर लौटने वाले हैं।

Raising concerns चिंताएँ उठाना

- In **February this year**, the Congress raised objections to the announcement to amend the Acts.
इस वर्ष **फरवरी में**, कांग्रेस ने अधिनियमों में संशोधन की घोषणा पर आपत्ति जताई।
- It said the move **dilutes accountability** of suppliers, raises **domestic risk**, and protects equipment suppliers, reflecting the **Convention on Supplementary Compensation**, compromising the **citizens' safety**, and leaning in favour of **international corporations**.
इसका कहना था कि यह कदम आपूर्तिकर्ताओं की **जवाबदेही को कमजोर** करता है, **घरेलू जोखिम** बढ़ाता है, उपकरण आपूर्तिकर्ताओं की रक्षा करता है, **अतिरिक्त मुआवजा सम्मेलन** को दर्शाता है, **नागरिकों की सुरक्षा** से समझौता करता है और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों** के पक्ष में झुकता है।
- The party also alleged that the move was intended to appease **foreign interests**, particularly **France and the U.S.**, ahead of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit**.
पार्टी ने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि यह कदम **विदेशी हितों**, विशेष रूप से **फ्रांस और अमेरिका** को खुश करने के लिए था, जो **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की यात्रा** से पहले उठाया गया।
- Back in **2010**, then-Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** stated that the process for compensation for nuclear accidents began in **1999**, and such a law was needed.
2010 में, तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री **मनमोहन सिंह** ने कहा था कि परमाणु दुर्घटनाओं के लिए मुआवजे की प्रक्रिया **1999** में शुरू हुई थी और ऐसा कानून आवश्यक था।
- The government then dismissed claims that the proposed law was timed with a visit by **President Barack Obama**.
सरकार ने तब इस दावे को खारिज कर दिया था कि प्रस्तावित कानून का समय **राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा** की यात्रा के साथ जोड़ा गया था।
- Now, the central issue is whether the **Congress** will take a studied stance on the proposed legislation.
अब केंद्रीय मुद्दा यह है कि क्या **कांग्रेस** प्रस्तावित कानून पर एक विचारपूर्ण रुख अपनाएगी।
- There is a serious debate taking place outside on the move to build **small modular reactors**, with many countries vying to have a piece of the pie.
छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर बनाने की दिशा में उठाए गए कदम पर बाहर एक गंभीर बहस चल रही है, जिसमें कई देश हिस्सेदारी के लिए होड़ कर रहे हैं।
- The contribution of energy from **nuclear power** is estimated to be slightly over **3%** of the total power generation.
परमाणु ऊर्जा से ऊर्जा का योगदान कुल बिजली उत्पादन का लगभग **3%** से थोड़ा अधिक आंका जाता है।
- At the end of last year, the installed capacity of **24 nuclear power plants** stood at **8.8 GW**, the government informed **Parliament**.



पिछले वर्ष के अंत में, 24 परमाणु बिजली संयंत्रों की स्थापित क्षमता 8.8 गीगावाट थी, यह सरकार ने संसद को बताया।

- This was when the country set a target of **10 GW by the year 2000**.
यह तब था जब देश ने साल 2000 तक 10 गीगावाट का लक्ष्य रखा था।
- The government now aims for **22.48 GW by 2031-32** and an ambitious **100 GW by 2047**.
सरकार का अब लक्ष्य 2031-32 तक 22.48 गीगावाट और महत्वाकांक्षी 2047 तक 100 गीगावाट है।
- In the past, the **Opposition** took an about-turn on three key issues.
अतीत में, **विपक्ष** ने तीन महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर पलटी खाई।
- At the turn of the century, opposition led to a delay in enacting an amendment to the **Patents Act, 1970**.
सदी के मोड़ पर, विपक्ष ने **पेटेंट अधिनियम, 1970** में संशोधन लाने में देरी कर दी।
- Eventually, after a change of sides, the **Opposition's support** resulted in the mandatory amendment.
अंततः, पक्ष बदलने के बाद, **विपक्ष के समर्थन** से अनिवार्य संशोधन हो गया।
- A decade ago, on two other contentious issues, the **Opposition stalled laws**, one on **insurance law to raise the FDI ceiling**, and the ratification of the **exchange of enclaves with Bangladesh** under the **Land Border Agreement**.
एक दशक पहले, दो अन्य विवादास्पद मुद्दों पर, **विपक्ष ने कानूनों को रोका**, एक बीमा कानून में एफडीआई सीमा बढ़ाने पर, और दूसरा भूमि सीमा समझौते के तहत बांग्लादेश के साथ एन्क्लेवों के आदान-प्रदान के अनुमोदन पर।
- Finally, these proposed laws were enacted with the then-**Opposition** offering support, with minor or no concessions.
अंततः, इन प्रस्तावित कानूनों को उस समय के **विपक्ष** के समर्थन से लागू किया गया, जिसमें मामूली या कोई रियायत नहीं दी गई।
- Leaders across the aisle walked together to arrive at an agreed position as the governments of the day worked, in their assessment, to further the **national interest**.
नेताओं ने मिलकर एक सहमत स्थिति तक पहुंचने के लिए साथ काम किया क्योंकि उस समय की सरकारों ने अपने आकलन में **राष्ट्रीय हित** को आगे बढ़ाने का काम किया।

Need for a debate

बहस की आवश्यकता

- Today, the **NDA government** does not have to look across the aisle for support.
आज, **एनडीए सरकार** को समर्थन के लिए विपक्ष की ओर देखने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- The current issues have **long-term implications**, and there is a need for a well-rounded discussion that takes into account all factors around **nuclear energy**, the shift towards **small modular reactors**, the larger question of **disposal of nuclear waste**, and allied subjects.
मौजूदा मुद्दों के **दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव** हैं, और आवश्यकता है कि **परमाणु ऊर्जा**, **छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टरों** की ओर बदलाव, **परमाणु कचरे के निपटान** का बड़ा सवाल, और संबंधित विषयों पर सभी पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए एक व्यापक चर्चा की जाए।
- The **Opposition** should play a leading role in initiating this discussion and decide accordingly.
इस चर्चा की शुरुआत करने में **विपक्ष** को अग्रणी भूमिका निभानी चाहिए और उसके अनुसार निर्णय लेना चाहिए।
- Otherwise, during a debate on a contentious issue two decades ago, a member on the **Treasury Benches** remarked to another member of the **Opposition** that a change of sides should not result in a change of stand.
अन्यथा, दो दशक पहले एक विवादास्पद मुद्दे पर बहस के दौरान, **सत्ता पक्ष** के एक सदस्य ने **विपक्ष** के एक अन्य सदस्य से कहा था कि पक्ष बदलने का अर्थ रुख बदलना नहीं होना चाहिए।



Why India needs a national space law

What does the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 stipulate? Is it self-executing? Why is it important that countries enact their own national space legislations? What has been India's approach to space legislation? Why is creating affordable insurance frameworks for space startups crucial?

GS III: S&T

EXPLAINER

Shrawani Shagun

The story so far:

India is set to celebrate its second National Space Day on August 23. Following Chandrayaan-3's soft-landing near the lunar south pole to the upcoming Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan missions, as well as the Bharat Antariksh Station, the Indian space programme is set to make history many times over. Yet an essential component remains grounded – the legal architecture. In the race to explore, innovate, and commercialise outer space, a strong space law is necessary.

What about global space legislation?

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 establishes that space is the province of all mankind, and therefore prohibits national appropriation, and places responsibility on states for national activities in space, whether conducted by the government or private entities. Its companion agreements create binding frameworks of rights, responsibilities, and liability rules. However, these treaties are not self-executing. According to Aarti Holla-Maini, director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), "The core United Nations treaties on outer space provide the foundational principles for all space activities: from the peaceful use of outer space to the responsibility and liability of states. National legislation is the means by which nations can give effect to these principles domestically, ensuring that their growing space sectors develop in a safe, sustainable, and internationally responsible way." India has ratified the key UN space treaties but it is still in the process of enacting comprehensive national space legislation.

While space policy may signal intent, law is what creates an enforceable structure. "National space legislation offers predictability, legal clarity, and a



The ISRO carrying out the Well Deck trials of the Gaganyaan mission's crew module in 2024. FILE PHOTO

stable regulatory environment for both government and private actors," Rossana Deim-Hoffmann, UNOOSA Global Space Law Project Lead said. Many countries now have national space legislation. Japan, Luxembourg, and the U.S. have enacted frameworks to facilitate licensing, liability coverage, and commercial rights over space activities.

Will India enact similar legislation?

India's approach to space legislation reflects a methodical, incremental strategy. As space law expert Ranjana Kaul notes, "It should be understood that national space legislation includes two cardinal interdependent aspects: (i) technical regulations governing space operations in orbit by commercial entities – this is the first aspect of 'authorisation' process under Article VI [of the Outer Space Treaty]. The Department of Space is proceeding meticulously in this matter."

This methodical approach has yielded concrete regulatory developments, which

includes the Catalogue of Indian Standards for Space Industry, critical for ensuring the safety of space operations; the Indian Space Policy, providing details of activities that non-governmental entities are encouraged to undertake; and the IN-SPACE Norms, Guidelines and Procedures (NPG) for implementation of Indian Space Policy, 2023, in respect of authorisation of space activities.

However, the second component is still pending. According to Dr. Kaul, "(ii) the overarching regulatory framework (textual part) – this is the ... 'space activities law' that will contain provisions of the OST that are meticulously, carefully, appropriately drafted."

What are industry perspectives?

From the industry's standpoint, the current regulatory transition creates significant operational challenges. Gp. Capt. T.H. Anand Rao (retd.), director of the Indian Space Association, identified priorities for national space legislation

beginning with the fundamental need for a statutory authority.

"IN-SPACE, which currently operates without formal legal backing, requires clear statutory authority to strengthen its role as the central regulatory body," Mr. Rao said. "The national space law should clearly set out licensing rules, qualifications, application processes, timelines, fees, and reasons for acceptance or denial, to avoid unnecessary delays and confusion from multiple ministry approvals." The dual-use nature of space technologies creates particular complications, with companies facing delays from multiple ministry clearances even after provisional approvals. Clear FDI rules, such as allowing 100% FDI in satellite component manufacturing under automatic routes, would attract critical capital for startups to scale operations. This operational clarity extends to liability frameworks, with Mr. Rao emphasising that "while India is ultimately responsible internationally, private companies must hold proper third-party insurance to cover any damages. This includes creating affordable insurance frameworks for startups managing high-value space assets. Innovation protection remains equally crucial, "legislation should secure intellectual property rights without excessive government control, encourage partnerships among industry, academia, and government, and foster investor trust." This balanced approach would prevent migration of talent and technologies to more IP-friendly jurisdictions. Mr. Rao also stressed the need for mandatory accident investigation procedures, enforceable space debris management laws, unified frameworks for space-related data and satellite communications, and an independent appellate body to prevent conflicts of interest. Without statutory backing, IN-SPACE's decisions remain vulnerable to procedural challenges.

Shrawani Shagun is a researcher focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance.

THE GIST

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 establishes that space is the province of all mankind, and therefore prohibits national appropriation, and places responsibility on states for national activities in space, whether conducted by government or private entities.

India's approach to space legislation reflects a methodical, incremental strategy.

Gp. Capt. T.H. Anand Rao (retd.), director of the Indian Space Association, identified priorities for national space legislation beginning with the fundamental need for a statutory authority.

Why India needs a national space law भारत को एक राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून की आवश्यकता क्यों है

National Space Day and India's Space Law Needs राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष दिवस और भारत की अंतरिक्ष कानून संबंधी आवश्यकताएँ

- India is set to celebrate its **second National Space Day on August 23**. भारत अपना **दूसरा राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष दिवस 23 अगस्त** को मनाने जा रहा है।
- Following **Chandrayaan-3's soft-landing near the lunar south pole** to the upcoming **Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan missions**, as well as the **Bharat Antariksh Station**, the Indian space programme is set to make history many times over. **चंद्रयान-3 की चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव के पास सॉफ्ट-लैंडिंग** से लेकर आने वाले **गगनयान और चंद्रयान मिशन** तथा **भारत अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन** तक, भारतीय अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम कई बार इतिहास रचने के लिए तैयार है।



- Yet an essential component remains grounded — the **legal architecture**. In the race to explore, innovate, and commercialise outer space, a strong **space law** is necessary. फिर भी एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक अधूरा है — **कानूनी ढाँचा**। अंतरिक्ष की खोज, नवाचार और व्यावसायीकरण की दौड़ में एक मजबूत **अंतरिक्ष कानून** आवश्यक है।

Global Space Legislation वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष कानून

- The **Outer Space Treaty of 1967** establishes that space is the **province of all mankind**, and therefore **prohibits national appropriation**, and places **responsibility on states** for national activities in space, whether conducted by the government or private entities.
बाह्य अंतरिक्ष संधि 1967 यह स्थापित करती है कि अंतरिक्ष पूरे मानव जाति का क्षेत्र है, और इसलिए यह राष्ट्रीय स्वामित्व पर रोक लगाती है, तथा अंतरिक्ष में राष्ट्रीय गतिविधियों के लिए राज्यों को जिम्मेदार ठहराती है, चाहे वे सरकार द्वारा हों या निजी संस्थाओं द्वारा।
- Its companion agreements create binding frameworks of **rights, responsibilities, and liability rules**. However, these treaties are **not self-executing**.
इसकी सहायक संधियाँ अधिकारों, जिम्मेदारियों और दायित्व नियमों का बाध्यकारी ढाँचा बनाती हैं। हालाँकि, ये संधियाँ स्वतः लागू नहीं होतीं।
- According to **Aarti Holla-Maini (Director, UNOOSA)**, “The core **United Nations treaties on outer space** provide the foundational principles for all space activities: from the **peaceful use of outer space** to the **responsibility and liability of states**. **National legislation** is the means by which nations can give effect to these principles domestically.”
आरती होला-मैनी (निदेशक, UNOOSA) के अनुसार, “संयुक्त राष्ट्र की अंतरिक्ष संधियाँ सभी अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के लिए बुनियादी सिद्धांत प्रदान करती हैं: अंतरिक्ष के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोग से लेकर राज्यों की जिम्मेदारी और दायित्व तक। राष्ट्रीय कानून वह साधन है जिसके माध्यम से राष्ट्र इन सिद्धांतों को घरेलू स्तर पर प्रभावी बना सकते हैं।”
- India has **ratified key UN space treaties** but it is still in the process of **enacting comprehensive national space legislation**.
भारत ने मुख्य संयुक्त राष्ट्र अंतरिक्ष संधियों की पुष्टि की है, लेकिन यह अभी भी व्यापक राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून बनाने की प्रक्रिया में है।

National Space Legislation राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून

- While **space policy** may signal intent, **law** is what creates an **enforceable structure**.
जहाँ अंतरिक्ष नीति इरादे का संकेत देती है, वहीं कानून एक प्रवर्तनीय ढाँचा बनाता है।
- “**National space legislation offers predictability, legal clarity, and a stable regulatory environment** for both government and private actors,” said **Rossana Deim-Hoffmann (UNOOSA Global Space Law Project Lead)**.
“राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून सरकार और निजी दोनों संस्थाओं के लिए पूर्वानुमेयता, कानूनी स्पष्टता और एक स्थिर नियामक वातावरण प्रदान करता है,” रोसाना डैम-हॉफमैन (UNOOSA ग्लोबल स्पेस लॉ प्रोजेक्ट लीड) ने कहा।
- Many countries now have **national space legislation**. **Japan, Luxembourg, and the U.S.** have enacted frameworks to facilitate **licensing, liability coverage, and commercial rights over space activities**.
अब कई देशों के पास राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून है। जापान, लक्समबर्ग और अमेरिका ने अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों पर लाइसेंसिंग, दायित्व कवरेज और वाणिज्यिक अधिकार को सुगम बनाने के लिए ढाँचे बनाए हैं।

Will India enact similar legislation? क्या भारत ऐसा ही कानून बनाएगा?

- India’s approach to space legislation reflects a **methodical, incremental strategy**.
अंतरिक्ष कानून को लेकर भारत का दृष्टिकोण एक सुव्यवस्थित, क्रमिक रणनीति को दर्शाता है।
- As space law expert **Ranjana Kaul** notes, “It should be understood that national space legislation includes two cardinal interdependent aspects: (i) technical regulations governing



space operations in orbit by commercial entities — this is the first aspect of ‘authorisation’ process under **Article VI** [of the **Outer Space Treaty**]. The **Department of Space** is proceeding meticulously in this matter.”

जैसा कि अंतरिक्ष कानून विशेषज्ञ **रंजन कौल** कहती हैं, “यह समझा जाना चाहिए कि राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून में दो मुख्य परस्पर-निर्भर पहलू शामिल हैं: (i) कक्षा में व्यावसायिक संस्थाओं द्वारा अंतरिक्ष अभियानों को नियंत्रित करने वाले तकनीकी विनियम — यह **बाह्य अंतरिक्ष संधि** के **अनुच्छेद VI** के तहत ‘प्राधिकरण’ प्रक्रिया का पहला पहलू है। **अंतरिक्ष विभाग** इस मामले में सावधानीपूर्वक आगे बढ़ रहा है।”

- This methodical approach has yielded **concrete regulatory developments**, which includes the **Catalogue of Indian Standards for Space Industry**, critical for ensuring the safety of space operations; the **Indian Space Policy**, providing details of activities that non-governmental entities are encouraged to undertake; and the **IN-SPACE Norms, Guidelines and Procedures (NPG)** for implementation of Indian Space Policy, **2023**, in respect of authorisation of space activities.

इस सुव्यवस्थित दृष्टिकोण ने **ठोस नियामक विकास** प्रदान किए हैं, जिसमें **स्पेस इंडस्ट्री के लिए भारतीय मानकों की सूची**, जो अंतरिक्ष अभियानों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है; **भारतीय अंतरिक्ष नीति**, जो गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं को प्रोत्साहित की जाने वाली गतिविधियों का विवरण प्रदान करती है; और **आईएन-स्पेस मानदंड, दिशानिर्देश और प्रक्रियाएँ (NPG)** शामिल हैं, जो **2023** की भारतीय अंतरिक्ष नीति के कार्यान्वयन और अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के प्राधिकरण से संबंधित हैं।

- However, the **second component** is still pending. According to Dr. Kaul, “(ii) the overarching regulatory framework (textual part) — this is the ... ‘space activities law’ that will contain provisions of the **OST** that are meticulously, carefully, appropriately drafted.” हालाँकि, **दूसरा घटक** अभी लंबित है। डॉ. कौल के अनुसार, “(ii) व्यापक नियामक ढाँचा (पाठ्य हिस्सा) — यही **‘अंतरिक्ष गतिविधि कानून’** होगा जिसमें **OST** के प्रावधानों को सावधानीपूर्वक और उपयुक्त रूप से तैयार किया जाएगा।”

What are industry perspectives?

उद्योग के दृष्टिकोण क्या हैं?

- From the industry’s standpoint, the current **regulatory transition** creates significant **operational challenges**. उद्योग के दृष्टिकोण से, वर्तमान **नियामक संक्रमण** महत्वपूर्ण **संचालन संबंधी चुनौतियाँ** उत्पन्न करता है।
- **Gp. Capt. T.H. Anand Rao (retd.)**, director of the **Indian Space Association**, identified priorities for national space legislation beginning with the fundamental need for a **statutory authority**. **Gp. कैप्टन टी.एच. आनंद राव (सेवानिवृत्त)**, भारतीय अंतरिक्ष संघ के निदेशक, ने राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून की प्राथमिकताओं की पहचान की, जिसकी शुरुआत एक **वैधानिक प्राधिकरण** की मौलिक आवश्यकता से होती है।
- “**IN-SPACE**, which currently operates without formal legal backing, requires clear **statutory authority** to strengthen its role as the central regulatory body,” Mr. Rao said. “The national space law should clearly set out **licensing rules, qualifications, application processes, timelines, fees, and reasons** for acceptance or denial, to avoid unnecessary delays and confusion from multiple ministry approvals.” श्री राव ने कहा, “**IN-SPACE**, जो वर्तमान में औपचारिक कानूनी समर्थन के बिना संचालित हो रहा है, को केंद्रीय नियामक निकाय के रूप में अपनी भूमिका को मजबूत करने के लिए स्पष्ट **वैधानिक प्राधिकरण** की आवश्यकता है। राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष कानून को स्पष्ट रूप से **लाइसेंसिंग नियम, योग्यताएँ, आवेदन प्रक्रियाएँ, समयसीमा, शुल्क और स्वीकृति या अस्वीकृति के कारण** निर्धारित करने चाहिए, ताकि कई मंत्रालयीय अनुमोदनों से होने वाली अनावश्यक देरी और भ्रम से बचा जा सके।”
- The **dual-use nature** of space technologies creates particular complications, with companies facing delays from multiple ministry clearances even after provisional approvals. Clear **FDI rules**, such as allowing **100% FDI** in satellite component manufacturing under automatic routes, would attract critical capital for startups to scale operations. अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकियों का **द्वैध-उपयोग स्वरूप** विशेष जटिलताएँ पैदा करता है, जिसमें कंपनियाँ अस्थायी अनुमोदन मिलने के बाद भी कई मंत्रालयों की मंजूरी में देरी का सामना करती हैं। स्पष्ट **एफडीआई नियम**, जैसे उपग्रह घटक निर्माण में स्वचालित मार्ग के तहत **100% एफडीआई** की अनुमति देना, स्टार्टअप को संचालन का विस्तार करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण पूंजी आकर्षित करेगा।



- This operational clarity extends to **liability frameworks**, with Mr. Rao emphasising that “while **India** is ultimately responsible internationally, private companies must hold proper **third-party insurance** to cover any damages. This includes creating **affordable insurance frameworks** for startups managing high-value space assets.”
यह परिचालन स्पष्टता **दायित्व ढाँचों** तक विस्तारित है, जिसमें श्री राव ने जोर देकर कहा कि “जहाँ **भारत** अंततः अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर जिम्मेदार है, वहीं निजी कंपनियों को किसी भी क्षति को कवर करने के लिए उचित **थर्ड-पार्टी बीमा** रखना चाहिए। इसमें उच्च-मूल्य वाले अंतरिक्ष संपत्तियों का प्रबंधन करने वाले स्टार्टअप्स के लिए **सुलभ बीमा ढाँचे** बनाना शामिल है।”
- Innovation protection remains equally crucial, “legislation should secure **intellectual property rights** without excessive government control, encourage **partnerships** among industry, academia, and government, and foster **investor trust**.” This balanced approach would prevent **migration of talent and technologies** to more IP-friendly jurisdictions.
नवाचार संरक्षण समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, “कानून को अत्यधिक सरकारी नियंत्रण के बिना **बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकारों** को सुरक्षित करना चाहिए, उद्योग, अकादमिक और सरकार के बीच **साझेदारी** को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए, और **निवेशक विश्वास** को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए।” यह संतुलित दृष्टिकोण **प्रतिभा और प्रौद्योगिकियों के प्रवास** को अधिक आईपी-फ्रेंडली क्षेत्रों में जाने से रोकेगा।
- Mr. Rao also stressed the need for **mandatory accident investigation procedures**, enforceable **space debris management laws**, **unified frameworks** for space-related data and satellite communications, and an **independent appellate body** to prevent conflicts of interest. Without statutory backing, **IN-SPACE’s** decisions remain vulnerable to procedural challenges.
श्री राव ने **अनिवार्य दुर्घटना जांच प्रक्रियाओं**, लागू होने योग्य **अंतरिक्ष मलबा प्रबंधन कानूनों**, अंतरिक्ष से संबंधित डेटा और उपग्रह संचार के लिए **एकीकृत ढाँचे**, और हितों के टकराव को रोकने के लिए एक **स्वतंत्र अपीलीय निकाय** की आवश्यकता पर भी जोर दिया। वैधानिक समर्थन के बिना, **IN-SPACE** के निर्णय प्रक्रियात्मक चुनौतियों के प्रति संवेदनशील बने रहते हैं।



Light to image: Willard Boyle and George Smith with a charge-coupled device in 1974. AFP

PATRIOTIC



How charge-coupled devices revolutionised digital imaging

At the time it was invented in 1969, the charge-coupled device (CCD) was a pioneering technology that converted light into electrical signals using an array of capacitors that transferred electric charges in a sequence

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

A charge-coupled device (CCD) is a remarkable electronic component used to capture images by converting light into electrical signals. Its invention marked a significant milestone in technology, influencing fields such as photography, astronomy, medicine, and many others.

What is a CCD?

At the time it was invented in 1969, the CCD was a pioneering technology that converted light into electrical signals using an array of capacitors that transferred electric charges in a sequence. Today, CCD technology has fundamentally transformed how we capture, analyse, and share visual information, representing one of the most important technological advances of the 20th century.

A CCD consists of an integrated circuit made up of an array of small picture elements called pixels. Each pixel acts like a small light sensor that collects photons (the particles of light) and converts them into electrical charges. These charges are then transferred across the device, one pixel at a time, to be read and processed into a digital image.

Imagine a grid where every little square captures some light and turns it into an electric signal that can be measured and displayed as part of a

complete picture. That's what a CCD does.

How was the CCD invented?

Willard Boyle and George Smith at Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey in the U.S. invented the first CCD in 1969 (Smith passed away on May 28, 2025.) They were initially working on using semiconductor technology to create new types of memory devices. During a brainstorming session, they realised that an electric charge could be stored and moved on small capacitors arranged close together.

Boyle and Smith came up with the idea to connect these capacitors in a way that allowed electrical charges to be shifted along the device, a process they called "charge coupling". This way, the charges could be transferred in a controlled manner, paving the way for its use in capturing images by converting light into electrical signals.

Their groundbreaking work earned them the Nobel Prize for physics in 2009, highlighting the profound impact of CCDs on science and technology.

Soon after, companies like Fairchild Semiconductor and Sony further developed CCDs, making them practical for mass production and use in cameras and other imaging devices.

How does a CCD work?

A CCD operates using the photoelectric

effect, where light that falls on the device generates electron-hole pairs in the semiconductor material.

Specifically, when photons enter a CCD, they strike the semiconductor material beneath each pixel. This energy knocks electrons loose, creating a small group of electrons proportional to the intensity of light in that pixel. Each pixel is essentially a small capacitor that holds these electrons. The amount of charge in each pixel varies depending on how much light the pixel has received.

A voltage is applied to electrodes placed over the pixels in a sequence that moves the charges from one pixel to the next, like passing buckets of water along a line. This is why it's called a "charge-coupled" device, and this process continues until all the charge has reached a readout register.

The accumulated charge from each pixel is then converted into a voltage signal, which can be amplified and digitised by connected electronics to form a digital image.

This sequential transfer and reading process allows the CCD to create a precise and high-quality representation of a scene being captured.

Where are CCDs used?

Since 1969, CCDs have revolutionised many fields by improving their ability to capture light as data. At the household level, CCDs made possible the rise of

digital cameras by replacing film with sensors that captured images electronically. This allowed people to view their images instantly, edit them, and store them in hard drives, greatly influencing everyday life and media. They're also used in CCTV cameras to provide high-quality video feeds for security in places like banks, shopping malls, and hospitals.

CCDs play a vital role in medical diagnostics, including in X-ray imaging, computed tomography (CT) scans, and endoscopy. Their high resolution and sensitivity produce clearer images that help doctors determine more accurate diagnoses and treatments. In the same vein, because of their sensitivity and precision, CCDs are also used in microscopes, spectrometers, and particle detectors where they allow scientists to analyse images in detail, for example, when they study cells, the structure of materials, and other physical phenomena.

In astronomy, CCDs have become the gold standard for astronomical imaging. Telescopes fit with CCDs can capture faint and distant celestial objects with more sensitivity and accuracy than traditional photographic plates. This capability has vastly increased astronomers' understanding of the universe, helping them discover distant galaxies, detect exoplanets, and study cosmic phenomena.

How charge-coupled devices revolutionised digital imaging

कैसे चार्ज-कपल्ड डिवाइस ने डिजिटल इमेजिंग में क्रांति ला दी

- At the time it was invented in 1969, the charge-coupled device (CCD) was a pioneering technology that converted light into electrical signals using an array of capacitors that transferred electric charges in a sequence.

जब इसे 1969 में आविष्कृत किया गया था, चार्ज-कपल्ड डिवाइस (CCD) एक अग्रणी तकनीक थी जिसने प्रकाश को विद्युत संकेतों में परिवर्तित किया, जिसमें संधारित्रों की एक श्रृंखला का उपयोग किया गया जो क्रमबद्ध रूप से विद्युत आवेशों को स्थानांतरित करते थे।

Charge-Coupled Device (CCD)

चार्ज-कपल्ड डिवाइस (CCD)



- A **charge-coupled device (CCD)** is a remarkable electronic component used to capture images by converting light into electrical signals.
चार्ज-कपल्ड डिवाइस (CCD) एक अद्भुत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कंपोनेंट है जिसका उपयोग प्रकाश को विद्युत संकेतों में बदलकर चित्र कैप्चर करने के लिए किया जाता है।
- Its invention marked a significant milestone in technology, influencing fields such as **photography, astronomy, medicine**, and many others.
इसके आविष्कार ने तकनीक में एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर चिह्नित किया, जिसने **फोटोग्राफी, खगोल विज्ञान, चिकित्सा** और कई अन्य क्षेत्रों को प्रभावित किया।

What is a CCD?

CCD क्या है?

- At the time it was invented in **1969**, the CCD was a pioneering technology that converted light into electrical signals using an array of capacitors that transferred electric charges in a sequence.
जब इसका आविष्कार **1969** में हुआ, तब CCD एक अग्रणी तकनीक थी जो संधारित्रों (capacitors) की एक श्रृंखला का उपयोग करके प्रकाश को विद्युत संकेतों में बदलती थी और क्रमिक रूप से चार्ज स्थानांतरित करती थी।
- Today, CCD technology has fundamentally transformed how we capture, analyse, and share visual information, representing one of the most important technological advances of the **20th century**.
आज, CCD तकनीक ने मूल रूप से इस बात को बदल दिया है कि हम दृश्य जानकारी को कैसे कैप्चर, विश्लेषण और साझा करते हैं, और यह **20वीं सदी** की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी प्रगतियों में से एक है।
- A CCD consists of an integrated circuit made up of an array of small picture elements called **pixels**.
एक CCD एक इंटीग्रेटेड सर्किट से बना होता है जिसमें छोटे चित्र तत्वों की एक श्रृंखला होती है जिन्हें **पिक्सल** कहा जाता है।
- Each **pixel** acts like a small light sensor that collects **photons** (particles of light) and converts them into electrical charges.
प्रत्येक **पिक्सल** एक छोटे प्रकाश सेंसर की तरह कार्य करता है जो **फोटॉन्स** (प्रकाश कण) को एकत्र करता है और उन्हें विद्युत आवेशों में बदल देता है।
- Imagine a grid where every little square captures some light and turns it into an electric signal that can be displayed as part of a complete picture. That's what a CCD does.
एक ग्रिड की कल्पना करें जहाँ हर छोटा वर्ग कुछ प्रकाश को पकड़ता है और उसे एक विद्युत संकेत में बदल देता है जिसे पूरी तस्वीर के हिस्से के रूप में प्रदर्शित किया जा सकता है। यही काम CCD करता है।

How was the CCD invented?

CCD का आविष्कार कैसे हुआ?

- **Willard Boyle** and **George Smith** at **Bell Telephone Laboratories** in **New Jersey, U.S.** invented the first CCD in **1969** (**Smith passed away on May 28, 2025**).
विलार्ड बॉयल और **जॉर्ज स्मिथ** ने **न्यू जर्सी, अमेरिका** की **बेल टेलीफोन प्रयोगशाला** में पहला CCD **1969** में आविष्कार किया (**स्मिथ का निधन 28 मई 2025 को हुआ**)।
- They were initially working on semiconductor technology to create new types of memory devices.
वे शुरू में अर्धचालक तकनीक पर काम कर रहे थे ताकि नए प्रकार के मेमोरी डिवाइस बना सकें।
- During a brainstorming session, they realised that an electric charge could be stored and moved on small capacitors arranged close together.
एक ब्रेनस्टॉर्मिंग सत्र के दौरान, उन्होंने महसूस किया कि छोटे-छोटे संधारित्रों पर विद्युत आवेश संग्रहीत और स्थानांतरित किया जा सकता है।
- They came up with the idea to connect these capacitors in a way that allowed charges to be shifted along the device, a process they called "**charge coupling**".
उन्होंने इन संधारित्रों को इस तरह से जोड़ने का विचार किया जिससे चार्ज को डिवाइस के साथ स्थानांतरित किया जा सके, इस प्रक्रिया को उन्होंने "**चार्ज कप्लिंग**" कहा।



- Their work earned them the **Nobel Prize in Physics (2009)**.
उनके कार्य ने उन्हें **2009 में भौतिकी का नोबेल पुरस्कार** दिलाया।
- Soon after, companies like **Fairchild Semiconductor** and **Sony** further developed CCDs, making them practical for mass production.
इसके तुरंत बाद, **फेयरचाइल्ड सेमीकंडक्टर** और **सोनी** जैसी कंपनियों ने CCDs को और विकसित किया, जिससे यह बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन के लिए व्यावहारिक बन गया।

How does a CCD work? CCD कैसे काम करता है?

- A CCD operates using the **photoelectric effect**, where light generates **electron-hole pairs** in semiconductor material.
एक CCD **फोटोइलेक्ट्रिक प्रभाव** का उपयोग करता है, जहाँ प्रकाश अर्धचालक सामग्री में **इलेक्ट्रॉन-होल जोड़े** उत्पन्न करता है।
- When **photons** enter a CCD, they strike the semiconductor beneath each pixel, knocking electrons loose.
जब **फोटॉन्स** CCD में प्रवेश करते हैं, तो वे प्रत्येक पिक्सल के नीचे के अर्धचालक से टकराते हैं और इलेक्ट्रॉनों को मुक्त करते हैं।
- Each **pixel** acts as a capacitor holding these electrons, with charge proportional to the light intensity.
प्रत्येक **पिक्सल** एक संधारित्र की तरह कार्य करता है जो इलेक्ट्रॉनों को रखता है, और चार्ज प्रकाश की तीव्रता के अनुपात में होता है।
- A voltage sequence moves these charges across the device like **passing buckets of water**, hence the name "**charge-coupled**".
एक वोल्टेज क्रम इन चार्जों को डिवाइस के पार स्थानांतरित करता है, जैसे **पानी की बाल्टियाँ पास की जाती हैं**, इसी से नाम पड़ा "**चार्ज-कपल्ड**".
- The charges reach a **readout register**, converted into voltage signals, amplified, and digitised into a **digital image**.
चार्ज एक **रीडआउट रजिस्टर** तक पहुँचते हैं, जहाँ उन्हें वोल्टेज संकेतों में बदला जाता है, प्रवर्धित किया जाता है, और अंततः **डिजिटल इमेज** में परिवर्तित किया जाता है।

Where are CCDs used? CCDs का उपयोग कहाँ होता है?

- Since **1969**, CCDs have revolutionised fields by replacing **film** with electronic sensors in **digital cameras**.
1969 से, CCDs ने **डिजिटल कैमरों** में **फिल्म** को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सेंसर से बदलकर कई क्षेत्रों में क्रांति ला दी है।
- They are used in **CCTV cameras** to provide high-quality video feeds for security in banks, malls, hospitals.
इनका उपयोग **CCTV कैमरों** में उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले वीडियो फीड के लिए किया जाता है, जैसे बैंकों, मॉल्स और अस्पतालों में।
- They play a vital role in **medical diagnostics**, including **X-ray imaging, CT scans, endoscopy**.
ये **चिकित्सीय निदान** में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, जैसे **एक्स-रे इमेजिंग, सीटी स्कैन, एंडोस्कोपी**।
- They are also used in **microscopes, spectrometers, particle detectors** for detailed scientific analysis.
इनका उपयोग **माइक्रोस्कोप, स्पेक्ट्रोमीटर, कण डिटेक्टरों** में वैज्ञानिक विश्लेषण के लिए किया जाता है।
- In **astronomy**, CCDs are the **gold standard** for capturing faint, distant celestial objects.
खगोल विज्ञान में, CCDs धुंधले और दूरस्थ खगोलीय पिंडों को कैप्चर करने के लिए **स्वर्ण मानक** हैं।
- They have helped astronomers discover **distant galaxies, exoplanets**, and study **cosmic phenomena**.
इनसे खगोलविदों ने **दूरस्थ आकाशगंगाएँ, बहिर्ग्रह** खोजे हैं और **ब्रह्मांडीय घटनाओं** का अध्ययन किया है।



'SEBI proposal to relax MPS, MPO norms set to benefit large firms'

GS III: Capital Market

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI

SEBI's proposal to relax **minimum public shareholding (MPS)** and **minimum public offer (MPO)** regulations may not increase flows significantly but will definitely reduce hassles arising from listing regulations for large issues, according to experts.

The markets regulator had proposed to increase the flexibility of MPS and MPO for companies aspiring to get listed, for "simplifying fund-raising by issuers in India," according to a consultation paper released on August 18.

"I'm not sure this will significantly increase **initial public offer (IPO) activity**, but it will certainly benefit large companies that have so far preferred to remain private due to regulatory complications," said Prashant Rao, Director & Head - Equity Capital Markets at

'Recent changes in listing norms are unlikely to impact the overall volume of IPOs significantly'

Anand Rathi Investment Banking.

He added that while the recent structural changes in listing regulations may make it easier for bigger companies to go public, they are unlikely to significantly impact the overall volume of IPOs, especially given the ongoing market volatility.

"For a majority of the Indian issuers who are going public, the proposed change to MPO and MPS rules will not affect their current dilution requirements and future MPS timeline. This flexibility is largely targeted towards the very large issuers," said Abhimanyu Bhattacharya, partner at Khaitan & Co.

SEBI proposal to relax MPS, MPO norms set to benefit large firms
बड़ी कंपनियों को लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए MPS, MPO मानदंडों में ढील देने का SEBI का प्रस्ताव

SEBI's proposal to relax minimum public shareholding (MPS) and minimum public offer (MPO) regulations may not increase flows significantly but will definitely reduce hassles arising from listing regulations for large issues, according to experts.

विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, SEBI का प्रस्ताव न्यूनतम सार्वजनिक हिस्सेदारी (MPS) और न्यूनतम सार्वजनिक प्रस्ताव (MPO) विनियमों में ढील देने का प्रवाह को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से नहीं



बढ़ा सकता, लेकिन यह निश्चित रूप से बड़ी इश्यूज के लिए लिस्टिंग नियमों से उत्पन्न झंझटों को कम करेगा।

- The **markets regulator** had proposed to increase the flexibility of **MPS and MPO** for companies aspiring to get listed, for “simplifying fund-raising by issuers in India,” according to a consultation paper released on **August 18**.
बाजार नियामक ने **18 अगस्त** को जारी परामर्श पत्र के अनुसार, सूचीबद्ध होने की इच्छुक कंपनियों के लिए **MPS और MPO** की लचीलापन बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव रखा था, ताकि “भारत में जारीकर्ताओं द्वारा फंड जुटाने को सरल बनाया जा सके।”
- “I’m not sure this will significantly increase **initial public offer (IPO)** activity, but it will certainly benefit **large companies** that have so far preferred to remain private due to regulatory complications,” said **Prashant Rao, Director & Head – Equity Capital Markets at Anand Rathi Investment Banking**.
“मुझे यकीन नहीं है कि यह **प्रारंभिक सार्वजनिक प्रस्ताव (IPO)** गतिविधि को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाएगा, लेकिन यह निश्चित रूप से उन **बड़ी कंपनियों** को लाभ पहुंचाएगा जिन्होंने अब तक नियामक जटिलताओं के कारण निजी बने रहना पसंद किया है,” ऐसा कहा **प्रशांत राव, निदेशक और प्रमुख – इक्विटी कैपिटल मार्केट्स, आनंद राठी इन्वेस्टमेंट बैंकिंग** ने।
- He added that while the recent **structural changes** in listing regulations may make it easier for bigger companies to go public, they are unlikely to significantly impact the overall volume of **IPOs**, especially given the ongoing **market volatility**.
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि लिस्टिंग नियमों में हाल के **संरचनात्मक बदलाव** बड़ी कंपनियों के लिए सार्वजनिक होना आसान बना सकते हैं, लेकिन वे विशेष रूप से मौजूदा **बाजार अस्थिरता** को देखते हुए **IPO** की कुल मात्रा को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से प्रभावित करने की संभावना नहीं रखते।
- “For a majority of the **Indian issuers** who are going public, the proposed change to **MPO and MPS** rules will not affect their current dilution requirements and future **MPS timeline**. This flexibility is largely targeted towards the very **large issuers**,” said **Abhimanyu Bhattacharya, partner at Khaitan & Co**.
“सार्वजनिक होने वाले अधिकांश **भारतीय जारीकर्ताओं** के लिए, **MPO और MPS** नियमों में प्रस्तावित बदलाव उनके वर्तमान डायल्यूशन आवश्यकताओं और भविष्य की **MPS समयसीमा** को प्रभावित नहीं करेगा। यह लचीलापन मुख्य रूप से बहुत **बड़े जारीकर्ताओं** की ओर लक्षित है,” ऐसा कहा **अभिमन्यु भट्टाचार्य, पार्टनर, खैतान एंड कंपनी** ने।



Core sector growth slows to 2% in July as fossil fuels contract

GS III: Industries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity in India's eight core industries slowed to 2% in July 2025, dragged down by contractions in the fossil fuel categories, according to data released on Wednesday. Steel and cement sectors, however, witnessed double-digit growth.

The Index of Eight Core Industries, released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, shows that activity in July 2025 is relatively significantly slower than the 6.3% growth seen in July last year. The Index grew by 2.2% in June 2025.

Within the Index, the coal sector saw the largest contraction, of 12.3%, in July 2025. This is the second



The coal sector saw the largest contraction, of 12.3%, in July 2025. GETTY IMAGES

consecutive month of contraction for the sector, and its worst performance in at least five years.

The natural gas sector contracted 3.2% in July 2025, its thirteenth consecutive month of contraction. Similarly, the crude oil sector also contracted, by 1.3%, for the fourteenth month out of the last 15.

by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, shows that activity in **July 2025** is relatively significantly slower than the **6.3% growth** seen in July last year. The **Index** grew by **2.2%** in **June 2025**.

Core sector growth slows to 2% in July as fossil fuels contract

जुलाई में जीवाश्म ईंधनों के सिकुड़ने से कोर सेक्टर की वृद्धि 2% तक धीमी हुई

Growth in industrial activity in India's eight core industries slowed to 2% in July 2025, dragged down by contractions in the fossil fuel categories, according to data released on Wednesday. Steel and cement sectors, however, witnessed double-digit growth.

भारत की आठ कोर इंडस्ट्रीज में औद्योगिक गतिविधि की वृद्धि जुलाई 2025 में घटकर 2% रह गई, जिसे जीवाश्म ईंधन श्रेणियों में गिरावट ने नीचे खींचा, यह आंकड़े बुधवार को जारी किए गए। हालांकि, स्टील और सीमेंट सेक्टर ने दो अंकों की वृद्धि दर्ज की।

• The Index of Eight Core Industries, released



वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आठ कोर इंडस्ट्रीज का सूचकांक दिखाता है कि जुलाई 2025 में गतिविधि पिछले वर्ष जुलाई में दर्ज 6.3% वृद्धि की तुलना में अपेक्षाकृत काफी धीमी रही। यह सूचकांक जून 2025 में 2.2% बढ़ा था।

- Within the Index, the coal sector saw the largest contraction, of 12.3%, in July 2025. This is the second consecutive month of contraction for the sector, and its worst performance in at least five years.

सूचकांक के भीतर, कोयला क्षेत्र ने जुलाई 2025 में सबसे बड़ी गिरावट दर्ज की, जो 12.3% थी। यह इस क्षेत्र के लिए लगातार दूसरा महीना है जब इसमें गिरावट आई है और कम से कम पांच वर्षों में इसका सबसे खराब प्रदर्शन है।

- The natural gas sector contracted 3.2% in July 2025, its thirteenth consecutive month of contraction. Similarly, the crude oil sector also contracted, by 1.3%, for the fourteenth month out of the last 15.

प्राकृतिक गैस क्षेत्र जुलाई 2025 में 3.2% सिकुड़ गया, जो लगातार तेरहवां महीना है जब इसमें गिरावट आई। इसी तरह, कच्चा तेल क्षेत्र भी सिकुड़ा, 1.3% की गिरावट के साथ, जो पिछले 15 महीनों में से चौदहवीं बार है।

Exotel unveils programmable voice infrastructure for AI agents

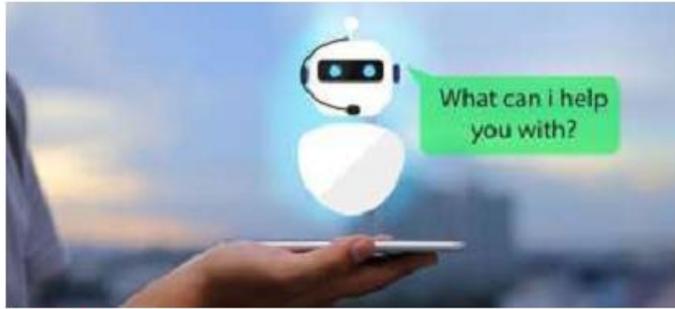
GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Exotel has announced the launch of programmable voice infrastructure for artificial intelligence (AI) agents designed to deliver “significant power” to plug-’n’-play AI bots.

Launched as Exotel AgentStream, this new offering is a real-time voice streaming platform that seamlessly connects AI voice bots to users over PSTN, WhatsApp, in-app channels, and WebRTC, the company said.

“With this, developers



Seamless reach: The real-time voice streaming platform connects AI voice bots to users over PSTN, WhatsApp. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

will be able to impact a wide spectrum of essential enterprise workflows spanning sales, support, collections, and service,” it added.

Sachin Bhatia, co-foun-

der and Chief Growth Officer, Exotel, said, “Voice agents are on the rise, and most bot providers need robust voice infrastructure to operate seamlessly. In fact, the majority of voice

bot-powered companies in India already rely on Exotel for our compliant, reliable, and seamless voice streaming.”

“With sub-20ms latency versus the 150ms industry standard; we deliver the fastest streaming available, enabling bots to respond with human-like speed and fluidity” he added.

With over 14 years of experience powering India’s digital communications, the company said it continues to drive AI adoption, with voice streaming usage growing at 25% month on month across its platform.

Exotel unveils programmable voice infrastructure for AI agents

AI एजेंट्स के लिए Exotel ने प्रोग्रामेबल वॉइस इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर पेश किया



Exotel has announced the launch of programmable voice infrastructure for artificial intelligence (AI) agents designed to deliver “significant power” to plug-’n’-play AI bots.

Exotel ने कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) एजेंट्स के लिए प्रोग्रामेबल वॉइस इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लॉन्च करने की घोषणा की है, जिसे प्लग-’n’-प्ले AI बॉट्स को “महत्वपूर्ण शक्ति” देने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है।

- Launched as **Exotel AgentStream**, this new offering is a **real-time voice streaming platform** that seamlessly connects **AI voice bots** to users over **PSTN, WhatsApp, in-app channels, and WebRTC**, the company said.
कंपनी ने कहा कि इसे **Exotel AgentStream** के रूप में लॉन्च किया गया है, यह नया ऑफरिंग एक **रीयल-टाइम वॉइस स्ट्रीमिंग प्लेटफॉर्म** है जो **PSTN, WhatsApp, इन-ऐप चैनल्स और WebRTC** के जरिए **AI वॉइस बॉट्स** को यूजर्स से सहज रूप से जोड़ता है।
- “With this, developers will be able to impact a wide spectrum of essential enterprise workflows spanning **sales, support, collections, and service**,” it added.
“इसके साथ, डेवलपर्स **सेल्स, सपोर्ट, कलेक्शंस और सर्विस** तक फैले आवश्यक एंटरप्राइज वर्कफ्लो की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला को प्रभावित करने में सक्षम होंगे,” यह जोड़ा गया।
- **Sachin Bhatia**, co-founder and Chief Growth Officer, Exotel, said, “**Voice agents** are on the rise, and most bot providers need robust **voice infrastructure** to operate seamlessly. In fact, the majority of **voice bot-powered companies** in India already rely on Exotel for our compliant, reliable, and seamless voice streaming.”
Exotel के सह-संस्थापक और मुख्य विकास अधिकारी **सचिन भाटिया** ने कहा, “**वॉइस एजेंट्स** तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं और अधिकांश बॉट प्रदाताओं को सहज रूप से संचालन के लिए मजबूत **वॉइस इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर** की आवश्यकता है। वास्तव में, भारत में अधिकांश **वॉइस बॉट-संचालित कंपनियां** पहले से ही हमारे अनुपालन, विश्वसनीय और सहज वॉइस स्ट्रीमिंग के लिए Exotel पर निर्भर करती हैं।”
- “With sub-20ms latency versus the **150ms industry standard**; we deliver the fastest streaming available, enabling bots to respond with **human-like speed and fluidity**” he added.
उन्होंने जोड़ा, “**150ms इंडस्ट्री स्टैंडर्ड** की तुलना में **20ms से कम लेटेंसी** के साथ; हम उपलब्ध सबसे तेज स्ट्रीमिंग प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे बॉट्स **मानव जैसी गति और सहजता** के साथ प्रतिक्रिया देने में सक्षम होते हैं।”
- With over **14 years** of experience powering India’s **digital communications**, the company said it continues to drive **AI adoption**, with voice streaming usage growing at **25% month on month** across its platform.
भारत के **डिजिटल कम्युनिकेशन** को संचालित करने में **14 वर्षों** से अधिक के अनुभव के साथ, कंपनी ने कहा कि वह **AI अपनाने** को बढ़ावा देती रहती है, उसके प्लेटफॉर्म पर वॉइस स्ट्रीमिंग उपयोग **हर महीने 25%** की दर से बढ़ रहा है।



U.S. gas-heavy power pipeline set to stoke LNG exporter tensions

The growing reliance on natural gas for domestic power generation also stands to stoke tensions with the fast-growing LNG export sector, which is banking on access to abundant and cheap natural gas to drive further expansion; rising competition may thwart efforts to reduce power bills

GS III: S&T

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters

LITTLETON, COLORADO

U.S. power firms are building out the most gas-fired power generation capacity globally, which will cement the country's position as by far the world's largest natural gas consumer and gas-fired power producer.

But the growing reliance on natural gas for domestic power generation also stands to stoke tensions with the fast-growing LNG export sector, which is banking on access to abundant and cheap natural gas to drive further expansion.

Growing competition for U.S. natural gas by power firms and LNG exporters could also drive up natural gas prices, which may thwart efforts to reduce power bills for homes and businesses and undermine the competitiveness of U.S. LNG on world markets.

Hitting the gas

The United States accounts for roughly a quarter of global gas production, use and exports, and around 27% of worldwide electricity generation from gas-fired power plants, data from the Energy Institute and energy think tank Ember show.

Within the global gas power generation network, the United States ac-



Meter reading: The U.S. ranks third in terms of gas capacity currently under construction. REUTERS

counts for 26% of total currently operating gas power capacity, data from Global Energy Monitor (GEM) shows.

The roughly 570,000 megawatts (MW) of gas capacity currently deployed in the U.S. vastly exceeds that of all other countries, including the 166,000 MW in second-placed China and 113,000 MW in third-placed Russia.

The U.S. ranks third in terms of gas capacity currently under construction, as China is building out roughly 41,000 MW of new capacity compared to 24,000 MW by Saudi Arabia and 16,300 MW being constructed in the U.S., GEM data shows.

But the U.S. regains the top spot in terms of gas ca-



For LNG exporters, there will be heightened competition for natural gas supplies within the U.S., and potentially higher gas prices in the physical gas market

capacity in so-called pre-construction, which is where generation sites are identified and appropriate permits are being secured ahead of actual construction.

The U.S. has close to 1,00,000 MW of new gas-fired power capacity in the pre-construction phase, according to the latest data captured globally by GEM.

That capacity total is notable for two important reasons.

Firstly, the U.S. total handily exceeds the planned capacity pipeline at the same development phase in all other countries, including second-placed China's 61,500 MW and the 29,200 MW in pre-construction in third-placed Vietnam.

That relatively larger development pipeline means that U.S. gas-fired power capacity will grow more quickly than in other countries over the near to medium term.

Secondly, the U.S. pre-construction total is more than six times larger than it was just one year ago, when 15,000 MW of new gas-fired power capacity

was categorized as being in pre-construction.

The rapid swell in U.S. gas capacity in pre-construction since mid-2024 highlights the urgent steps being taken by U.S. power firms to boost generation by all means available, in response to rapidly growing power demand from data centers, AI applications and other major electricity consumers.

The sharp jump in gas capacity also highlights the impact of the return to office by U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration has drastically cut federal support for renewable power supplies and backed rapid fossil fuel power growth.

LNG impact

The acceleration in U.S. gas-fired power generation capacity means the power sector will increase the amount of natural gas it consumes once that capacity is brought online.

For LNG exporters, this means there will be heightened competition for natural gas supplies within the U.S., and potentially higher gas prices in the physical gas market.

Somewhat offsetting the impact of higher gas use from power firms are expectations U.S. natural gas production will climb in 2025 by around 3% from 2024's near-record total to new highs, according to the U.S. Energy Informa-

tion Administration.

However, those gas production estimates are subject to change and are based in part on projections for oil prices, which can drive oil and gas extraction rates from gas-rich oil deposits in the United States.

So far in 2025, benchmark U.S. crude oil prices have fallen by over 10% due to higher production from OPEC members and slow oil demand growth in key oil import markets.

Oil prices could fall further if ongoing discussions between the U.S. and Russia to end the war in Ukraine prove successful and result in an easing of sanctions of Russian oil supplies.

Such a scenario could trigger a slowdown in oil and gas production within the U.S., and a potential tightening in domestic gas supplies if demand from power firms and LNG exporters remains firm.

Regardless of the near-term production picture, overall U.S. natural gas output will peak early in the next decade and then hold relatively flat through 2050, according to the EIA's latest long-term energy outlook.

That assessment is based on the future production from key U.S. gas basins, many of which have passed their output peaks and are now considered to be in terminal decline.

U.S. gas-heavy power pipeline set to stoke LNG exporter tensions

अमेरिकी गैस-आधारित पावर पाइपलाइन एलएनजी निर्यातक तनाव को बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार

The growing reliance on natural gas for domestic power generation also stands to stoke tensions with the fast-growing LNG export sector, which is banking on access to abundant and cheap natural gas to drive further expansion; rising competition may thwart efforts to reduce power bills



घरेलू बिजली उत्पादन के लिए प्राकृतिक गैस पर बढ़ती निर्भरता तेजी से बढ़ते एलएनजी निर्यात क्षेत्र के साथ तनाव को भी बढ़ा सकती है, जो आगे विस्तार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रचुर और सस्ती प्राकृतिक गैस तक पहुंच पर निर्भर है; बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा बिजली बिलों को कम करने के प्रयासों को विफल कर सकती है

- U.S. power firms are building out the most gas-fired power generation capacity globally, which will cement the country's position as by far the world's largest natural gas consumer and gas-fired power producer.
अमेरिकी पावर कंपनियां वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे अधिक गैस-आधारित बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता का निर्माण कर रही हैं, जो देश की स्थिति को अब तक के सबसे बड़े प्राकृतिक गैस उपभोक्ता और गैस-आधारित बिजली उत्पादक के रूप में मजबूत करेगी।
- But the growing reliance on natural gas for domestic power generation also stands to stoke tensions with the fast-growing LNG export sector, which is banking on access to abundant and cheap natural gas to drive further expansion.
लेकिन घरेलू बिजली उत्पादन के लिए प्राकृतिक गैस पर बढ़ती निर्भरता तेजी से बढ़ते एलएनजी निर्यात क्षेत्र के साथ तनाव को भी बढ़ा सकती है, जो आगे विस्तार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रचुर और सस्ती प्राकृतिक गैस तक पहुंच पर निर्भर है।
- Growing competition for U.S. natural gas by power firms and LNG exporters could also drive up natural gas prices, which may thwart efforts to reduce power bills for homes and businesses and undermine the competitiveness of U.S. LNG on world markets.
अमेरिकी प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए पावर कंपनियों और एलएनजी निर्यातकों के बीच बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा प्राकृतिक गैस की कीमतों को भी बढ़ा सकती है, जिससे घरों और व्यवसायों के बिजली बिल कम करने के प्रयास विफल हो सकते हैं और वैश्विक बाजारों में अमेरिकी एलएनजी की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता कमजोर हो सकती है।

PATRIOTIC