

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

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श्रीलंका के नेशनल पीपुल्स पावर (NPP) गठबंधन ने 14 नवंबर को हुए आम चुनावों में ऐतिहासिक भारी जीत हासिल की, जिसमें दो-तिहाई बहुमत हासिल हुआ।

- यह जीत द्वीप-व्यापी समर्थन को दर्शाती है, जिसने पारंपरिक जातीय मतदान पैटर्न को पलट दिया और राष्ट्रपति दिसानायके के सुधार एजेंडे को सशक्त बनाया।

President's coalition sweeps Sri Lanka polls

NPP wins 159 seats in 225-member House, securing over two-thirds majority; SJP follows with 40 seats

Compared to the September election, NPP wins in regions that are home to Tamils and Muslims

The Rajapaksas' party was nearly wiped out with just 3 seats; it had won 145 in the 2020 general elections

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's ruling alliance secured a landslide win in Sri Lanka's November 14 general elections, shattering records of strong governments of the past and making history in the island's ethnic minorities-dominated north, east, and hill country.

The National People's Power (NPP) won a total of 159 seats in the 225-member House, securing over two-thirds majority, official results declared on Friday showed. The Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) or United People's Force) followed, with just 40 seats. The formerly powerful Rajapaksa party, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, was nearly wiped out, with its presence in the legislature shrinking to

three seats from the 145 it won in the 2020 general elections. The poll outcome gives President Dissanayake ample power in the legislature to take forward his pledges on political and economic reform.

Compared to the September presidential election, the NPP's vote share rose considerably across the island in the parliamentary polls, but its especially remarkable mandate in the north and east that are home to Tamils and Muslims drew attention.

In Jaffna, the NPP won three out of six seats, becoming the first mainstream party from the south to topple prominent northern Tamil parties, including the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK). The poll results in this region overturns the image of the NPP's chief constituent Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation



Confident stride: President Anura Kumara Dissanayake walking out after casting his vote in the election on Thursday. REUTERS

Front] as an "anti-Tamil rights" party, based on the JVP's fierce opposition in the 1980s to Tamils' self-rule and the merger of the north and east.

"It [Jaffna] is the crown of this victory," prominent JVP member and former

MP Bimal Rathnayake told *The Hindu*.

Signalling a change

Tamils and Muslims who voted for Mr. Dissanayake's political rivals – mainly former Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa – in the

presidential election appear to have now voted for the NPP. In almost all districts, barring Batticaloa in the east, the NPP beat prominent regional parties, representing Tamils and Muslims, signalling that the call for change that

dominated the Sinhala-majority south ahead of the September presidential election had found island-wide resonance more recently.

"Tamil parties suffering" According to senior journalist and political commentator V. Thanabalingham, Tamil political parties "are suffering the consequences of not introspecting the political path of the past" and believing they could "fool" the Tamils for a long time, going to Parliament with "only emotional nationalist slogans". "It is too late for even an introspection," he noted on X.

Mr. Dissanayake's alliance also recorded big wins in the hill country across the island's Central, Southern and Uva provinces, outdoing traditional parties representing the Malaiyaha Tamils.

This would be the first instance of a political party garnering a two-thirds majority in Parliament under Sri Lanka's proportional representation system, observed senior lawyer Saliya Peiris in a social media post. "The result will also pave the way for the NPP government to quickly honour its promise to abolish the Executive Presidency," he said. While the landslide win is a testament "that most people are happy with the direction of the country since the election of President Dissanayake", the NPP must resist the temptation to enact laws that will erode democratic rights and freedoms, Mr. Peiris cautioned, while managing "extraordinary expectations" of the electorate on political and economic fronts.

CHANCE TO CHANGE HISTORY
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समाचार का विश्लेषण:

- राष्ट्रपति अनुरा कुमारा दिसानायके के नेशनल पीपुल्स पावर (NPP) गठबंधन ने श्रीलंका के 14 नवंबर को हुए आम चुनावों में ऐतिहासिक भारी जीत हासिल की।
- NPP ने 225 सदस्यीय संसद में 159 सीटें जीतीं, जिससे उसे दो-तिहाई से ज्यादा बहुमत मिला, जबकि विपक्षी समागी जन बालवेगया (SJB) को सिर्फ 40 सीटें मिलीं।
- राजपक्ष की श्रीलंका पोदुजना पेरामुना को भारी हार का सामना करना पड़ा, जिससे उनकी उपस्थिति 2020 में 145 से घटकर सिर्फ तीन सीटों पर आ गई।
- जाफ़ना और पहाड़ी इलाकों जैसे तमिल और मुस्लिम बहुल क्षेत्रों में NPP के उल्लेखनीय जनादेश ने मतदान पैटर्न में बदलाव का संकेत दिया।
- यह श्रीलंका की आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व प्रणाली के तहत पहला दो-तिहाई बहुमत है, जो राजनीतिक और आर्थिक सुधारों का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है।

श्रीलंका की राजनीतिक प्रणाली

- सरकार का प्रकार: श्रीलंका अर्ध-राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली के तहत एक एकात्मक लोकतांत्रिक गणराज्य है।
- संविधान: 1978 के संविधान के तहत संचालित होता है, जो एक मजबूत कार्यकारी राष्ट्रपति पद की स्थापना करता है।
- कार्यकारी शाखा: राष्ट्रपति राज्य के प्रमुख, सरकार के प्रमुख और सशस्त्र बलों के कमांडर-इन-चीफ दोनों होते हैं।
- प्रधानमंत्री वरिष्ठ मंत्री होते हैं और राष्ट्रपति की सहायता करते हैं।
- विधानमंडल: संसद 225 सदस्यों वाला एक सदनीय निकाय है, जो 5 साल के कार्यकाल के लिए चुने जाते हैं। यह कानून बनाने, बजट को मंजूरी देने और कार्यकारी की देखरेख के लिए जिम्मेदार है।
- न्यायपालिका: सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के साथ एक स्वतंत्र प्रणाली।
- विकेंद्रीकरण: प्रांतीय परिषदों के तहत सीमित स्वायत्तता वाले प्रांतों के माध्यम से शासित।
- चुनाव: आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व के तहत आयोजित किए जाते हैं।
- राजनीतिक दल: एनपीपी और एसजेबी जैसी प्रमुख पार्टियों के साथ बहुदलीय प्रणाली।

आर.जी. कर बलात्कार और हत्या मामले पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के स्वप्रेरणा मामले के जवाब में प्रस्तुत राष्ट्रीय कार्य बल (एनटीएफ) की रिपोर्ट ने स्वास्थ्य पेशेवरों की सुरक्षा के लिए एक अलग केंद्रीय कानून की आवश्यकता को खारिज कर दिया।

- ➔ इसने राज्य कानूनों को बढ़ाने और भारतीय न्याय संहिता, 2023 का उपयोग करने की सिफारिश की। यह निर्णय डॉक्टरों के निकायों द्वारा सख्त राष्ट्रीय कानून के लिए किए गए आह्वान के विपरीत है।

No need for separate Central law to tackle crimes against health workers: NTF report

The report filed in Supreme Court says States have enough laws to keep healthcare professionals safe, while the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita could take care of heinous offences committed against them; it calls for deployment of trained security personnel in hospitals, night-shift safety protocols

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The National Task Force (NTF) report filed in the Supreme Court in the *suo motu* case concerning the R.G. Kar rape and murder case has said there is no need to enact a "separate Central law" to protect healthcare professionals.

The NTF said States had enough laws to keep healthcare professionals safe. Besides, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) could take care of heinous offences committed against doctors and medical staff, the report said.

"It has been observed that State laws have adequate provisions to address day-to-day minor offences and serious offences can be addressed by BNS. A separate Central law to deal with offences against healthcare professionals is, therefore, not required," the NTF reasoned.

The report was dealing with the question whether enforcement mechanism



Loud and clear: People take out a protest march in Kolkata demanding justice for the doctor who was raped and murdered at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. ANI

under existing laws need strengthening.

"It is noted that 24 States have already enacted laws to address violence against healthcare professionals, whereby the terms 'healthcare professional' and 'medical professional' have also been defined. Two more States have already introduced their Bills in this regard. Most of

the State laws cover minor offences and prescribe punishment for them. The major offences/heinous offences are adequately covered under BNS," it noted.

The report said in States where there were no specific laws to protect medical professionals, the BNS could be used to immediately address acts of violence against them.

The NTF recommendation is diametrically opposite to a persistent demand from doctors' bodies to have a separate Central law. In fact, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) had written to the NTF, which was also mandated by the Supreme Court to formulate an enforceable national protocol for the safety and security of med-

ical professionals, demanding a "deterrent Central law" dealing with violence against doctors and hospitals and to declare hospitals as safe zones.

Protests by doctors

The NTF was constituted by the apex court in the wake of the protests by doctors and medical professionals following the horrific rape and murder of a postgraduate doctor at the State-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

"The only preventive strategy that could be applied across the board and across all States is a deterrent Central law in statute... We, the medical professionals of India expect the National Task Force to live up to our expectations," the IMA had written to the NTF.

The recommendations of the NTF has been divided into three categories – short-term, medium-term and long-term - after receiving suggestions from

53 associations and 1,700 individuals/hospitals.

The measures suggested deployment of trained security personnel in hospitals, coordination with local police, high walls, limited biometric access, night-shift safety protocols and transportation for medical staff, augmentation of mobile network, CCTVs, restrooms and toilets, internal complaints committee to act on sexual harassment complaints, etc. Recommendations also include having "round-the-clock presence of a senior doctor in emergency service area".

The NTF said FIRs, including zero FIRs, should be filed within six hours of the reporting of any act of violence committed against medical professionals at their workplaces.

The task force identified "poor communication" between medical professionals and patients' families as a major source of frustration, mistrust and tension leading to violence and even mob attacks.

एक अलग केंद्रीय कानून का विरोध

- ➔ राष्ट्रीय कार्य बल (एनटीएफ) ने आर.जी. कर बलात्कार और हत्या मामले के संबंध में सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दायर अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि स्वास्थ्य पेशेवरों की सुरक्षा के लिए एक अलग केंद्रीय कानून की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- ➔ एनटीएफ ने तर्क दिया कि राज्य कानूनों में पहले से ही छोटे अपराधों को संबोधित करने के लिए पर्याप्त प्रावधान हैं, जबकि जघन्य अपराधों को भारतीय न्याय संहिता, 2023 (बीएनएस) के तहत संबोधित किया जा सकता है।
- ➔ रिपोर्ट ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि राज्य स्तर पर मौजूदा कानून दिन-प्रतिदिन के अपराधों के लिए पर्याप्त हैं, और एक अलग कानून अनावश्यक था।

राज्य कानून और प्रवर्तन तंत्र

- 24 राज्यों ने स्वास्थ्य सेवा पेशेवरों की सुरक्षा के लिए कानून बनाए हैं, जिसमें "स्वास्थ्य सेवा पेशेवर" और "चिकित्सा पेशेवर" जैसे शब्दों को परिभाषित किया गया है।
- एनटीएफ रिपोर्ट ने स्वीकार किया कि दो और राज्यों ने इसके लिए विधेयक पेश किए हैं।
- जहां कोई विशिष्ट राज्य कानून मौजूद नहीं है, वहां बीएनएस का उपयोग स्वास्थ्य सेवा पेशेवरों के खिलाफ हिंसा को तुरंत संबोधित करने के लिए किया जा सकता है।

केंद्रीय कानून के लिए डॉक्टरों की मांग

- एनटीएफ की सिफारिश भारतीय चिकित्सा संघ (आईएमए) की मांग के विपरीत है, जिसने एक निवारक केंद्रीय कानून और अस्पतालों को सुरक्षित क्षेत्र के रूप में नामित करने की वकालत की थी।
- आईएमए ने चिकित्सा पेशेवरों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय प्रोटोकॉल की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डाला था, खासकर आर.जी. कर मेडिकल कॉलेज में हुई दुखद घटना के बाद।

तत्काल और दीर्घकालिक उपायों के लिए एनटीएफ की सिफारिशें

- एनटीएफ ने प्रशिक्षित सुरक्षा कर्मियों की तैनाती, स्थानीय पुलिस के साथ समन्वय और सीसीटीवी लगाने सहित अल्पकालिक, मध्यम अवधि और दीर्घकालिक उपायों का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- इसने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि स्वास्थ्य सेवा कर्मियों के खिलाफ किसी भी हिंसा की रिपोर्ट करने के छह घंटे के भीतर एफआईआर दर्ज की जानी चाहिए।
- एनटीएफ ने स्वास्थ्य पेशेवरों और मरीजों के परिवारों के बीच खराब संचार को हिंसा का एक प्रमुख स्रोत बताया, जिसके कारण अविश्वास और भीड़ के हमले बढ़े।

बाकू में COP29 में, भारत ने समतापूर्ण जलवायु वित्त पर जोर दिया, तथा विकसित देशों से आग्रह किया कि वे 2030 तक प्रतिवर्ष 1.3 ट्रिलियन डॉलर जुटाकर पेरिस समझौते के तहत अपने दायित्वों को पूरा करें।

- ▶ भारत ने यूरोपीय संघ के CBAM जैसे एकतरफा व्यापार उपायों का भी विरोध किया, तथा उन्हें भेदभावपूर्ण तथा वैश्विक सहयोग में बाधा बताया।

जलवायु वित्त पर भारत का रुख

- ▶ भारत ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि विकसित देशों को जलवायु वित्त को "निवेश लक्ष्य" के रूप में नहीं देखना चाहिए।
- ▶ इसने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि पेरिस समझौता विकसित देशों को विकासशील देशों का समर्थन करने के लिए एकतरफा जलवायु वित्त प्रदान करने तथा जुटाने का आदेश देता है।
- ▶ भारत ने दोहराया कि चल रही चर्चाओं के अनुसार, 2030 तक वैश्विक स्तर पर 5-6.8 ट्रिलियन डॉलर के जलवायु वित्त की आवश्यकता है।
- ▶ जलवायु वित्त पर एक नए सामूहिक परिमाणित लक्ष्य पर विचार-विमर्श किया जा रहा है, जिसका उद्देश्य 2020-2025 के लिए 2009 में निर्धारित पुराने 100 बिलियन डॉलर के वार्षिक लक्ष्य को प्रतिस्थापित करना है।

COP29 का फोकस: नया जलवायु वित्त लक्ष्य

- ▶ 2025 तक एक नया परिचालन लक्ष्य स्थापित करने के लिए COP29 चर्चाएँ महत्वपूर्ण हैं, ताकि विकासशील देशों को विकासात्मक प्रगति में बाधा डाले बिना नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में परिवर्तन का समर्थन किया जा सके।
- ▶ भारत, विकासशील देशों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हुए, इस बात पर जोर देता है कि विकसित देशों को जलवायु अनुकूलन और परिवर्तन की ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए 2030 तक सालाना 1.3 ट्रिलियन डॉलर जुटाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध होना चाहिए।

एकतरफा व्यापार उपायों पर भारत का रुख

- ▶ भारत ने कार्बन उत्सर्जन से जुड़े "संरक्षणवादी" व्यापार उपायों का कड़ा विरोध किया, जिसमें कहा गया कि वे भेदभावपूर्ण हैं और समानता के सिद्धांतों का उल्लंघन करते हैं।
- ▶ भारत ने तर्क दिया कि ऐसे उपाय कम कार्बन परिवर्तन के वित्तीय बोझ को विकासशील और कम आय वाले देशों पर डालते हैं।

व्यापार प्रतिबंधों के खिलाफ चीन के नेतृत्व वाली याचिका

- ▶ प्रमुख विकासशील देशों के एक समूह द्वारा संचालित याचिका में जलवायु परिवर्तन से जुड़े एकतरफा व्यापार उपायों को संबोधित करने के लिए एक औपचारिक एजेंडा आइटम प्रस्तावित किया गया है।
- ▶ ये उपाय मुख्य रूप से यूरोपीय संघ के कार्बन सीमा समायोजन तंत्र (CBAM) को लक्षित करते हैं, जो यूरोपीय संघ के कार्बन मानदंडों को पूरा नहीं करने वाले आयातों पर कर है।

कार्बन सीमा समायोजन तंत्र (CBAM) क्या है?

India says climate finance is not an 'investment goal'



Green image: Women posing for a picture by the logo of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku on Friday. REUTERS

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

At the ongoing COP29 negotiations in Azerbaijan's Baku, India stated that climate finance – the money that's necessary to incentivise and facilitate developing countries' adoption of renewable energy sources over fossil fuels – should not be seen as "investment goals" by developed countries.

"Climate finance cannot be changed into an investment goal when it is a unidirectional provision and mobilisation goal from the developed to the developing countries. The Paris Agreement is clear on who is to provide and mobilise the climate finance – it is the developed countries," said a statement by India's lead negotiator, Naresh Pal Gangwar, on late Thursday (November 14, 2024). The statement was formally made public by the Union Environment Ministry on Friday. Currently, \$5-6.8 trillion worth of climate finance until 2030 is being mooted at Baku.

Several technical issues are being deliberated upon at Baku. The key moment, however, that the hundreds of negotiators are working upon is the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance. This is an estimate of the money

that developing countries will collectively require from developed countries to adapt to climate change and shift to renewable sources without compromising on developmental needs. The existing estimate, agreed upon in 2009, was to mobilise and deliver \$100 billion annually from 2020-2025 but was fulfilled – not to universal agreement – only in 2022. However, in 2021, the countries collectively decided to increase it.

They decided to come up with a new number and make it operational by 2025. This is why the Baku COP is expected to deliver on a new number to make the COP a success.

Intervening on behalf of a collective called 'Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), at the High-Level Ministerial on Climate Finance in Baku, India, highlighted that the impacts of climate change were increasingly becoming evident in the form of unfolding disasters.

India's intervention reiterated that the developed countries need to commit to providing and mobilising at least \$1.3 trillion every year till 2030.

INDIA VOICES DISSENT

» PAGE 5

WARS DISTRACTING TALKS

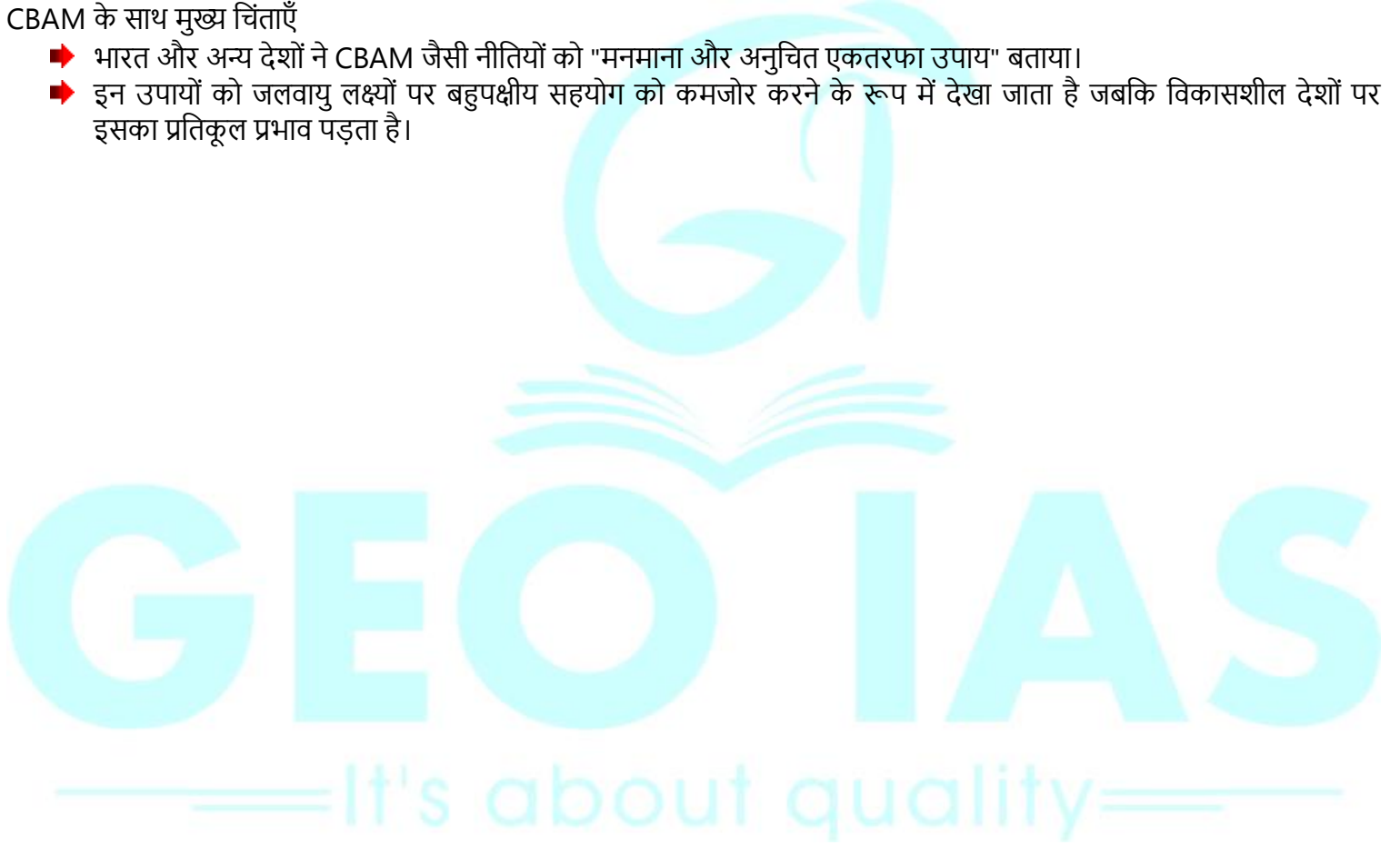
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Daily News Analysis

- उद्देश्य: कार्बन सीमा समायोजन तंत्र (CBAM) यूरोपीय संघ का एक प्रस्ताव है, जिसे कम कठोर पर्यावरणीय नियमों वाले देशों से आयातित वस्तुओं पर कार्बन कर लगाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।
- लक्ष्य: इसका उद्देश्य कार्बन रिसाव को रोकना है, यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि यूरोपीय संघ के उद्योगों को विदेशी प्रतिस्पर्धियों की तुलना में कठोर जलवायु नीतियों से नुकसान न हो।
- प्रभावित उत्पाद: CBAM सीमेंट, स्टील, एल्युमीनियम, उर्वरक और बिजली जैसे सामानों को लक्षित करता है, जिन्हें यूरोपीय संघ में आयात किया जाता है।
- कार्यान्वयन: वर्तमान में एक संक्रमणकालीन चरण में, CBAM 1 जनवरी, 2026 को पूर्ण रूप से प्रभावी होगा।
- विवाद: इस तंत्र को संरक्षणवादी उपाय के रूप में देखा जाता है और विकासशील देशों के खिलाफ भेदभावपूर्ण माना जाता है, जिनकी कार्बन नीतियाँ समान नहीं हो सकती हैं।

CBAM के साथ मुख्य चिंताएँ

- भारत और अन्य देशों ने CBAM जैसी नीतियों को "मनमाना और अनुचित एकतरफा उपाय" बताया।
- इन उपायों को जलवायु लक्ष्यों पर बहुपक्षीय सहयोग को कमजोर करने के रूप में देखा जाता है जबकि विकासशील देशों पर इसका प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है।



Page 07 : GS 3 : Environment – Conservation – Important Species

मध्य प्रदेश के बांधवगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व (BTR) में 10 हाथियों की दुखद मौत हुई, जो संभवतः साइक्लोपियाज़ोनिक एसिड से दूषित कोदो बाजरा खाने के कारण हुई।

➔ इस घटना ने मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष, हाथियों के प्रबंधन के लिए अपर्याप्त संसाधनों और कोदो के प्रभावों पर शोध की आवश्यकता पर चिंता व्यक्त की। सरकार निवारक उपायों पर काम कर रही है।



A six-month-old elephant calf, part of the herd of 13 that lost 10 members in October, being treated at the Rama Elephant Camp of the Bandharghar Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. A.S. RAJGOPAL

A jumbo crisis in Madhya Pradesh

Ten elephants died at the Bandharghar Tiger Reserve between October 29 and 31. Lab reports found that they had eaten large quantities of fungus-infected kodo millet, which had caused acute toxicity. Mehul Malpani reports on the tragic incident in a State that is struggling to deal with its increasing jumbo population

It was business as usual at the Bandharghar Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh on the morning of October 29. All the officers were headed to the BTR headquarters at Umaria for a review meeting. Some had already gone home for Diwali, while some were to leave in the next two days.

Arpit Mairal, the forest range officer of Paturang, was running late for the meeting. On his way, at around 11 a.m., he got a call from the beat guard of Sakhartha village, who told him that a herd of 13 wild elephants was behaving strangely.

"The guards and the beat officer had spotted the elephants some 200 metres away. They told me that four of them were lying on the ground and not moving, while some were sitting or standing in unusual positions," says Mairal. The phantoms do not usually lie down or sit for long as they find it difficult to get back on their feet.

Mairal immediately drove for an hour and a half to the spot on the border of the Paturang and Khiladi core ranges near Sakhartha. He and some guards found 10 elephants lying on the forest floor in a radius of 100-150 m.

Mairal called the Bandharghar Deputy Director, Prakash Kumar Verma. He asked Verma to cancel the meeting and rush to the spot with all the rangers and sub-divisional officers (SDOs). "Four elephants were dead. Six were barely moving – they were flapping their ears or moving their tails slowly," he recalls, as he prepares a detailed report sought by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Mairal says Verma dispatched all the officials to the spot and stayed back at the headquarters to call veterinarians from other national parks and from Umaria. BTR's lone wildlife vet, Dr. Nitin Gupta, who was on his way to Jabalpur for personal reasons, rushed back to the reserve.

By 5 p.m., there were 150-200 guards, rangers, senior officials, and private and government vets, apart from a few heavy machines, tractors, and medical equipment at the spot. When it became dark, the two halogen lights installed for treatment proved insufficient. The officials positioned 10-12 cars in a half circle and used the vehicle lights. They also made small trenches and lit a fire to keep away other wild elephants.

For the next 30 hours, the spot turned into a makeshift hospital. However, despite their best efforts, four elephants died on October 30 and the remaining two passed away the next day. A post-mortem was conducted at the same spot and the pachyderms were buried nearby. During the burial, other elephants turned up, stood at a distance, transported, and flapped their ears.

A crop that can kill
The death of the 10 elephants – nine female and one male – brought the BTR into the national limelight. Multiple teams of Central and State agencies visited the reserve for investigation. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav sent a three-member high level team to Bandharghar. The State government suspended the Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director as well as an SDO for negligence. Earlier this week, the Central government sent the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary in the Environment Ministry to Bhopal to report on the incident and the measures taken on elephant management.

The post-mortem report stated that the ele-

phants died after eating kodo millet. Forensic examinations confirmed this. A toxicology report from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, said that a high concentration of cyclospirogane acid was detected in multiple organs of each elephant and that the animals might have consumed a large quantity of kodo plant grains.

A report from the School of Wildlife Forensic and Health (SWFH), Jabalpur, found acute toxicity in the vital organs of the animals. The BTR management also sent samples of kodo crop and seeds to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics, Hyderabad, which found extremely high contents of cyclospirogane acid in the crop samples, a source says.

Meanwhile, test results from the State Forensic Science Laboratory, Sagor, ruled out poisoning from pesticide, insecticide, or any other chemical, allegations that the jumbos were killed by poachers were also found to be baseless.

On November 12, the National Green Tribunal issued notices to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; the Wildlife Institute of India; IVRI, Bareilly; the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh; and the Umaria Collector into the deaths of the animals and the connection with kodo.

Days after the 10 elephants died, a wild elephant killed two men and critically injured one. This led to concerns about a serious human-animal conflict in the region. Officials at BTR suspect, based on the description of the elephant and the location of the two deaths, that a male elephant, aged 10-12 years, captured after the killings, is from the same herd of 13. While another fully grown adult male remains untraced, a six-month-old calf of the herd was rescued in a distressed condition about a week later in Karai, about 80 km from the spot where the rest died. It is now at BTR's Rama Elephant Camp.

A perfect storm
Known as a 'wild cereal', kodo has been grown in India for centuries, but was largely limited to forests and tribal regions. As it is high in protein and fibre, kodo has now become popular among people with lifestyle diseases. Kodo, once sold



An elephant being treated by veterinarians. It died along with nine others. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

for about 400-500 per kilogramme in local farmers' markets in Madhya Pradesh, is now priced at ₹50-120 per kg.

Bandharghar Deputy Director Verma says kodo used to be grown on small patches of land. Now, farmers have started cultivating it on a large scale for commercial purposes.

The farm where the elephants ate kodo belonged to Manoj Kumar from Sakhartha. Verma says Kumar and two or three other farmers had grown kodo in about 10 acres of land that was on the boundary of the core zone and the village.

Dr. A.B. Shrivastava, founder-director of SWFH, Jabalpur, who has been roped in to help at BTR, says symptoms of kodo toxicity can be easily detected and treatment given for both animals and people. But in BTR, symptoms could not be detected and help provided in time because the animals were in the wild. They had eaten nearly 8 acres of kodo, say officials.

Dr. Shrivastava highlights the need for a study on the health impacts of kodo so that there is a designed treatment in place. "Right now, we only give treatment to animals based on the symptoms they display. Treatment includes fluid therapy with IV drips and other fluids to dilute kodo, as well as multivitamins," he says.

There is also limited research available on kodo and more specifically, its relation with elephants. A BRS research paper says, "Farmers believe that kodo millet is poisonous after rain. It is known to produce unconsciousness or delirium with violent tremors of the voluntary muscles. There are reports that elephants have died from eating kodo millet."

A 2003 research paper titled 'Potential Risk of Cyclospirogane Acid Toxicity in Koda Poisoning', 'Cyclospirogane acid is cultivated in dry and semi-arid regions, sometimes environmental conditions like spring and summer strike as being suitable for a certain kind of poisoning which leads to greater economic crop loss.' It adds that such conditions make millets more susceptible to fungal infections, especially from ergot fungi.

The infection causes cyclospirogane acid.

Dr. Shrivastava explains that such climatic conditions are rare, but are mostly seen in October when the sun is bright, the crop is ready for harvesting, and the region receives heavy rainfall. In the BTR case, high contents of fungus were also found in the harvested crop that was kept in bundles in the farm where the elephants ate.

A struggle in the wild
The eastern forests of Madhya Pradesh have always had elephants as visitors. In November 2018, a batch of 14 elephants arrived at BTR from Chhatargarh and Odisha. Within a year, they had two calves. Since then, three forests in Madhya Pradesh – BTR, the Sanjay Dabhi National Park in Sidihi, and the Kanha National Park in Mandla – have received multiple batches of elephants, mainly from Chhatargarh and Odisha. The estimated jumbo population is 150. Bandharghar alone is home to 65-70 elephants, Mairal says.

But the State does not have the resources to deal with this increasing population. Forest guards, tasked with tracking the movements of animals such as tigers and elephants, are not pro-

I think the 11 elephants were part of a larger herd of 12. When the others returned and saw the scenes during the post-mortem, they began to roar loudly.

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vided with tranquillisers or vehicles to protect themselves in case of an attack. Gauram Singh, a forest guard, survived an attack by a tiger in 2014. "The animal left me alive simply because it wanted to. I had no way of saving myself," he says.

Chhaila Singh, a fellow guard posted closer to the spot where the 10 elephants died, carries an axe and rides a bicycle. He says the door and the windows of his quarters were broken by an elephant three years ago. "I wrote to senior officials many times but nothing has happened," he says.

Verma says the department started building elephant proof trenches around these quarters last year but is yet to cover all of them.

The tragedies show various other lapses on the part of the BTR management and at the policy level. "We don't have a training team to work with wild elephants, especially orphans, when we rescue them," says Verma. "We don't know how to rehabilitate them. We need special enclosures to keep elephants which come away from their herd. We also need them to treat elephants that get hurt." These facilities are available in Chhatargarh. Talks are on with the Madhya Pradesh government to work on these aspects, he says.

The State government is also sending officials to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which have large elephant populations. They are expected to gain exposure on best practices on elephant management. The first batch is returning on Sunday.

The government plans to use satellite collars on one or two members of a herd to track movements. Verma says a proposal to use thermal imaging to locate the animals easily is also being discussed. Another official of BTR says this can so be used to alert villagers about the movements of elephants. If these measures work, the forest department can use trap cameras to identify individual elephants, Verma contends.

Officials also admit that one or two of the elephants could have been saved if another doctor had been available. Dr. Gupta, the only vet at Bandharghar, recalls the events of October 29-31 as being "extremely stressful".

"I was running around giving instructions to all the other vets we had brought in. Local vets mostly deal with domestic animals and don't have expertise in dealing with wild animals," he says. "It is difficult to give an injection or a drip to an elephant as it keeps moving and could hurt people. In such cases, we have to sometimes give liquid medicines through the animal's rectum."

Dr. Gupta says there is no permanent facility at BTR to treat animals and that he always travels to the spot to do his job. The new Field Director, Anupam Sahay, says the forest department is considering providing an assistant to Dr. Gupta, who has been with BTR for about 15 years.

Madhya Pradesh Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Wildlife-L, Krishnamoorti, says there is no separate budget for elephants in the State. Two years ago, Project Elephant was merged with Project Tiger in Madhya Pradesh. "As part of this, we get funding from both the Central and State governments," he says.

"They were family"

Chhaila, locals are concerned that the human-animal conflict could become worse. Nine WhatsApp groups, one for each range of BTR, have suddenly become active. The groups have village heads, members of Hathi Mitra Dal (a designated group in each village to create awareness about elephants), local beat officers, rangers, and the Deputy Director as members. They receive messages every hour from people asking about elephant movements, and provide updates.

There is a tense silence in Sakhartha village, about 1.5 km from the farm where elephants ate kodo. Manoj Kumar's house is locked.

A farmer, Rajpal Singh Gond, is one of the few who is willing to talk. "After the elephant deaths, the forest officials ploughed many fields where kodo had been grown. Farmers were not even allowed to harvest and store the yield," he says. "Nobody here will talk against the forest department as we have to rely on them for compensation in case of crop damage by animals."

Sahay says kodo had been cultivated in about 1,500 acres of land within the boundaries of BTR and more than half had been harvested. For the unharvested crop, farmers were given the option of handing over their yield to the forest department and getting compensated. Some agreed.

Kodo in itself is not harmful, but at the moment we don't have a way of identifying the fungal infected crop. So, we considered all kodo as harmful in the current circumstances," he says.

Elsewhere, there is sorrow. Pushpendra Dwi-well, former honorary wildlife warden of Umaria, recalls the distress of other elephants during the post-mortem. "I think the 11 elephants were part of a larger herd of 12. They must have split up in search of kodo. When the others returned and saw the scenes during the post-mortem, they began to roar loudly. We had to use stress and other noises to keep them away and continue the examination," he says.

After the incident, patrolling teams have spotted smaller groups of elephants wandering in the forest. "We suspect that they are searching for their herd members. They generally end their search once they find evidence that their herd members are no more," Mairal says.

Most officials say the three days were "traumatic and sad". Brij Kishore Barmati, a beat guard with Khiladi range, doubts if anyone celebrated Diwali. "You don't celebrate festivals when someone in your family dies," he says. "Here, we lost 10 of them."

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मौत का कारण कोदो बाजरा से विषाक्तता:

➔ पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट ने पुष्टि की कि हाथियों की मौत साइक्लोपियाज़ोनिक एसिड से दूषित कोदो बाजरा खाने से हुई, जो कोदो फसलों में पाए जाने वाले कवक द्वारा उत्पादित विष है।

- ▶ भारतीय पशु चिकित्सा अनुसंधान संस्थान (IVRI) और ICRISAT ने हाथियों के अंगों और प्रभावित खेत से कोदो फसल दोनों में विष के उच्च स्तर की पुष्टि की।
 - ▶ विषाक्तता के लक्षण: हाथियों ने अपनी मृत्यु से पहले चलने में कठिनाई, संतुलन खोना और सुस्ती सहित परेशानी के लक्षण दिखाए।
- आधिकारिक प्रतिक्रियाएँ और जाँच**
- ▶ **सरकारी प्रतिक्रिया:**
 - राज्य सरकार ने मौतों की जाँच के लिए एक उच्च-स्तरीय टीम भेजी, जिसमें लापरवाही के लिए प्रमुख अधिकारियों को निलंबित कर दिया गया।
 - राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण ने मौतों और कोदो बाजरा की भूमिका के बारे में कृषि मंत्रालय और भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान सहित विभिन्न सरकारी एजेंसियों को नोटिस जारी किए।
 - ▶ **कोदो बाजरा की खेती:**
 - पारंपरिक रूप से जंगलों और आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में उगाया जाने वाला कोदो बाजरा अपने स्वास्थ्य लाभों के कारण एक व्यावसायिक फसल के रूप में लोकप्रिय हो गया है।
 - हालाँकि, इसकी व्यापक खेती ने कुछ जलवायु परिस्थितियों में फंगल संक्रमण जैसे जोखिम पैदा किए हैं, जो वन्यजीवों और पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को प्रभावित करते हैं।
- कृषि पद्धतियाँ और पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव**
- ▶ **फंगल संक्रमण:**
 - अक्टूबर में भारी बारिश और कोदो बाजरा के पकने की विशेषता वाली पर्यावरणीय परिस्थितियों के कारण फसलों में जहरीले कवक की वृद्धि हुई, जिससे साइक्लोपियाज़ोनिक एसिड का उत्पादन हुआ।
 - विशेषज्ञों का सुझाव है कि ऐसी जलवायु परिस्थितियों में कोदो बाजरा में विषाक्तता आम हो सकती है, लेकिन इस पर सीमित शोध ध्यान दिया गया है, खासकर हाथियों पर इसके प्रभाव के संबंध में।
- बांधवगढ़ में हाथी प्रबंधन की चुनौतियाँ**
- ▶ **हाथियों की बढ़ती आबादी:**
 - मध्य प्रदेश में हाथियों की आबादी बढ़ी है, छत्तीसगढ़ और ओडिशा जैसे पड़ोसी राज्यों से हाथी इस क्षेत्र में आ रहे हैं। अकेले बांधवगढ़ में 65-70 हाथी हैं।
 - ▶ **प्रबंधन संबंधी मुद्दे:**
 - रिजर्व को इस बढ़ती आबादी पर नज़र रखने और उसका प्रबंधन करने में चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
 - ट्रैकिंग, सुरक्षा के लिए वाहन और प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों जैसे उचित संसाधनों की कमी, प्रभावी हाथी प्रबंधन में बाधा डालती है।
 - ज्ञान सिंह जैसे वन रक्षकों को पर्याप्त सुरक्षा उपायों के बिना बाघों और हाथियों से खतरों का सामना करना पड़ा है।
 - ▶ **बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी:**
 - रिजर्व में वन्यजीवों के लिए समर्पित पशु चिकित्सा सुविधा का अभाव है और यह एक ही पशु चिकित्सक पर निर्भर है।
 - हाथियों की मौत के मामले में, अतिरिक्त पशु चिकित्सा सहायता की आवश्यकता थी, लेकिन वह उपलब्ध नहीं थी।
 - स्थानीय समुदाय ने मानव-पशु संघर्ष को बढ़ाने पर चिंता व्यक्त की है।
- भविष्य की कार्रवाई और प्रस्ताव**
- ▶ **हाथियों की निगरानी:**
 - वन विभाग हाथियों की गतिविधियों पर नज़र रखने और संघर्ष को रोकने के लिए उन पर सैटेलाइट कॉलर का उपयोग करने की योजना बना रहा है। बेहतर निगरानी के लिए थर्मल इमेजिंग और ट्रैप कैमरे लगाने के भी प्रस्ताव हैं।
 - ▶ **प्रशिक्षण और बुनियादी ढांचा:**
 - मध्य प्रदेश के अधिकारियों को हाथी प्रबंधन में सर्वोत्तम अभ्यास सीखने के लिए तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक भेजा जा रहा है, जिसमें अनाथ हाथियों के प्रबंधन और वन्यजीव उपचार सुविधाओं में सुधार की तकनीकें शामिल हैं।

India needs a globally recognised public policy school

Why is it that the world's largest democracy has yet to produce a world-class public policy institution? The United States and Europe boast of institutions such as the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard Kennedy School) and the London School of Economics which train leaders who shape not only national but global governance. Yet, India, with its complex democratic structure and urgent developmental challenges, sends its finest to be trained abroad. This is not for lack of policy schools – India has many – but it has to do with the structure of India's political and institutional landscape.

The executive has the reins

Public policy institutions thrive only when they influence power and decision-making. However, in India, there are limited access points for public policy commentators, academics, and civil society groups to influence policy. This is because much of the decision-making power is vested in the executive and operationalised primarily through the political elite, government officials and bureaucrats rather than through a deliberative legislative process. The oversight role of the legislature over the executive too is limited, leading to a fundamentally different policy ecosystem than in other major democracies.

In the U.S., Congress' power to craft legislation independently of the executive creates space for a thriving policy ecosystem based on analysis, debate, and expertise, with each public representative providing a possible entry point into the deliberative process. This decentralised process sustains a vibrant ecosystem of policy schools, think tanks, and advocacy groups, that can secure funding and find paying clients because their analysis and expertise can meaningfully influence lawmaking.

But in India, the centralisation of power within the executive – and of party leadership within political parties – diminishes the influence of these groups unless they have access to top leadership and are aligned with their political



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priorities. The weak formalisation of the Indian state further creates a disconnect between politics and policy, relegating policy discourse to a downstream role rather than making it constituent of the larger political platform. Consequently policy professionals lack the top-tier influence of other countries.

The power factor and where the wind blows

Further, influence on decision-making is closely tied to who is in power. The executive's ability to realign the public sphere when power changes hands is more extreme in India than in more institutionalised democracies. This creates fragility in public life, where those central to decision-making can find themselves sidelined when regimes change. In more institutionalised democracies, think tanks, media and civil society groups can maintain relative influence regardless of who is in power, which helps stabilise the policy ecosystem.

These factors are unique to India among other large democracies and demand a different approach to policy education. To create a top-tier public policy school in India, we must design an institution suited to our political reality – where power is informal, personalised, and heavily dependent on executive control. Such an institution must serve dual purposes: first, equipping students with both traditional policy expertise and an understanding of India's unique power dynamics; and second, facilitating a more stable policy ecosystem.

Unlike western policy schools that focus on formal institutions and assume straightforward paths to influence, an Indian institution must teach students to navigate a complex web of informal networks, regional power structures, and social dynamics. The curriculum must go beyond traditional policy education to map how power actually works – through relationships, caste hierarchies, regional elites, and grassroots movements. Students need to learn not just policy theory but also how to be effective in a system where power is opaque and unevenly

The structure of India's political and institutional landscape is why there is no such school till now

distributed, where idealism must meet pragmatism and the ability to adapt to local conditions to create real change.

Most importantly, to truly train development leaders who want to do good for their country, the school must select for, and cultivate, empathy for the people of our country. Too often, empathy for the lived reality of people's lives is overlooked and leads to top-down diktats that can wreak havoc in people's lives.

The need for space

Finally, the current situation where political legitimacy and influence are tied too closely to the executive leads to sycophancy, opportunism and instability. A school focused on nation-building must thus facilitate a broad institutional space in which legitimacy and influence would be based on the depth and the quality of public interventions instead of proximity to power. At its deep end, this would require a series of structural reforms in our politics and governance, but a foundation could be built through diverse partnerships and the identification of nation-builders across the political spectrum and sectors. Such a network cutting across politics, bureaucracy, civil society, academia, think tanks, and media would provide depth as well as opportunities for influence and collaboration across all regimes.

By creating this non-partisan, yet politically aware, space, the institution could nurture development professionals who maintain relevance despite regime changes. This would create more stable channels for policy input, improving the quality of public debate and governance in India.

It is this dual role that would allow the school and its graduates to influence power instead of operating at lower levels. Such an institution would set an example for other developing nations and gain global prominence by demonstrating that effective policy education must arise from local realities rather than mirror western models

GS Paper 02 : शासन एवं सामाजिक न्याय

UPSC Mains Practice Question: भारत में शासन और नीति निर्माण को प्रभावित करने में सार्वजनिक नीति संस्थानों के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों की जाँच करें। चर्चा करें कि नीति शिक्षा के लिए भारत-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण इन चुनौतियों का समाधान कैसे कर सकता है और लोकतांत्रिक शासन को कैसे मजबूत कर सकता है। (150 words/10m)

Context :

- ▶ दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा लोकतंत्र होने के बावजूद भारत में विश्व स्तर पर प्रसिद्ध सार्वजनिक नीति संस्थान का अभाव है। केंद्रीकृत कार्यकारी शक्ति और सीमित विधायी प्रभाव नीति पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की जीवंतता को कमजोर करते हैं।
- ▶ भारत-केंद्रित संस्था को स्थानीय शक्ति गतिशीलता को संबोधित करना चाहिए और सार्थक विकासात्मक और नीतिगत प्रभाव पैदा करने के लिए गैर-पक्षपातपूर्ण, सहानुभूति-संचालित शासन को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए।

सत्ता और निर्णय लेने में प्रभाव की कमी

- ▶ सार्वजनिक नीति संस्थाएँ तब फलती-फूलती हैं जब वे सत्ता और निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रियाओं को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।
- ▶ भारत में, निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रिया कार्यकारी के भीतर केंद्रीकृत है, जिसका नेतृत्व राजनीतिक अभिजात वर्ग और नौकरशाह करते हैं, जो सार्वजनिक नीति शिक्षाविदों और नागरिक समाज समूहों को दरकिनार कर देता है।
- ▶ कार्यपालिका पर विधायी निगरानी सीमित है, जिससे अन्य लोकतंत्रों की तुलना में कम विचार-विमर्श वाली नीति पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनता है।

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के साथ तुलना

- ▶ अमेरिका में, कांग्रेस स्वतंत्र रूप से कानून बनाती है, जिससे नीति निर्माण को प्रभावित करने के लिए सार्वजनिक नीति स्कूलों, थिंक टैंक और वकालत समूहों के लिए कई प्रवेश बिंदु बनते हैं।
- ▶ यह विकेंद्रीकृत प्रक्रिया एक जीवंत पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बनाए रखती है जहाँ वित्तपोषण और प्रभाव विश्लेषण, बहस और विशेषज्ञता से जुड़े होते हैं।
- ▶ इसके विपरीत, भारत की केंद्रीकृत शक्ति इन संस्थाओं की भूमिका को सीमित करती है जब तक कि वे शीर्ष नेतृत्व और राजनीतिक प्राथमिकताओं के साथ संरेखित न हों।

शक्ति पर नाजुकता और निर्भरता

- ▶ भारत में नीति पेशेवरों का प्रभाव इस बात से बहुत अधिक जुड़ा हुआ है कि सत्ता में कौन है, जिससे शासन बदलने पर अस्थिरता पैदा होती है।
- ▶ संस्थागत लोकतंत्रों में, थिंक टैंक और नागरिक समाज समूह राजनीतिक बदलावों की परवाह किए बिना प्रभाव बनाए रखते हैं, जिससे एक स्थिर नीति पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सुनिश्चित होता है।

भारत की वास्तविकता के लिए एक संस्था का डिजाइन करना

- ▶ भारत में एक विश्व स्तरीय सार्वजनिक नीति संस्था को सत्ता की अनौपचारिक, व्यक्तिगत प्रकृति को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए।
- ▶ पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल होना चाहिए:
 - पारंपरिक नीति विशेषज्ञता।
 - जाति पदानुक्रम, क्षेत्रीय अभिजात वर्ग और जमीनी स्तर के आंदोलनों सहित भारत की अनूठी शक्ति गतिशीलता की समझ।
 - अपारदर्शी और असमान रूप से वितरित सत्ता संरचनाओं को नेविगेट करने में व्यावहारिकता।
 - भारतीय लोगों की वास्तविकताओं के लिए सहानुभूति विकसित की जानी चाहिए, ऊपर से नीचे के हुकमों से हटकर लोगों पर केंद्रित शासन की ओर बढ़ना चाहिए।

राष्ट्र निर्माण के लिए संस्थागत स्थान का निर्माण

- ▶ भारत में राजनीतिक वैधता और प्रभाव अत्यधिक रूप से कार्यपालिका से जुड़े हुए हैं, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप चाटुकारिता और अस्थिरता होती है।
- ▶ एक सार्वजनिक नीति संस्थान को एक ऐसा स्थान विकसित करना चाहिए जहाँ वैधता सार्वजनिक हस्तक्षेप की गुणवत्ता पर आधारित हो, न कि सत्ता से निकटता पर।
- ▶ राजनीतिक, नौकरशाही और नागरिक समाज क्षेत्रों में विविध भागीदारी शासन परिवर्तनों की परवाह किए बिना स्थिरता और प्रभाव के अवसर प्रदान कर सकती है।

भारत-केंद्रित नीति संस्थान का वैश्विक प्रभाव

- ▶ स्थानीय वास्तविकताओं पर आधारित एक सार्वजनिक नीति स्कूल प्रभावी रूप से सत्ता को प्रभावित कर सकता है और विकासशील देशों के लिए एक उदाहरण स्थापित कर सकता है।
- ▶ ऐसा संस्थान नीति शिक्षा को विशिष्ट राजनीतिक और सामाजिक संदर्भों के अनुकूल बनाने के महत्व को प्रदर्शित करेगा, जिससे वैश्विक प्रमुखता प्राप्त होगी।

निष्कर्ष

- ▶ यह दोहरी भूमिका ही है जो स्कूल और उसके स्नातकों को निचले स्तरों पर काम करने के बजाय सत्ता को प्रभावित करने की अनुमति देगी।
- ▶ ऐसा संस्थान अन्य विकासशील देशों के लिए एक उदाहरण स्थापित करेगा और यह प्रदर्शित करके वैश्विक प्रमुखता प्राप्त करेगा कि प्रभावी नीति शिक्षा पश्चिमी मॉडलों को प्रतिबिंबित करने के बजाय स्थानीय वास्तविकताओं से उत्पन्न होनी चाहिए।