

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

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जेक सुलिवन ने घोषणा की कि अमेरिका भारतीय वैज्ञानिक और परमाणु संस्थाओं को प्रतिबंधित सूचियों से हटा देगा, जिससे द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

U.S. to remove Indian entities from restricted lists, says Jake Sullivan

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The United States will soon remove Indian scientific and nuclear entities from the “restricted lists” in order to “fully realise” the potential of the India-U.S. nuclear deal that was signed between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush, visiting U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said here on Monday. Speaking at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Mr. Sullivan presented the space and nuclear sectors as arenas of greater cooperation between the two sides.

“So today I can announce that the U.S. is now finalising the necessary steps to remove long-standing regulations that have prevented civil nuclear cooperation between India’s leading nuclear en-



Strong ties: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

tities and U.S. companies. The formal paper work will be done soon,” said Mr. Sullivan declaring the initiative. He described the move by the Biden administration as an “an opportunity to turn the page on some of the frictions of the past and create opportunities for the Indian entities that have been on the res-

tricted list of the United States”. He called upon the U.S. private sector and scientists and technologists to collaborate with Indian entities to “move civil nuclear cooperation” between the two countries.

Mr. Sullivan met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his

visit. Following the meeting, Mr. Modi remarked, “The India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership has scaled new heights, including in the areas of technology, defence, space, biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence. Look forward to building upon this momentum in ties between our two democracies for the benefit of our people and global good.”

The External Affairs Ministry, in a statement, announced that Mr. Sullivan met his Indian counterpart, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and briefed him about the “updates brought out by the Biden administration to U.S. missile export control policies under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) that will boost U.S. commercial space cooperation with India.”

प्रतिबंधित सूची क्या है?

- ▶ प्रतिबंधित सूची भारत सहित कुछ देशों में ऐसी संस्थाओं और व्यक्तियों की सूची को संदर्भित करती है, जो व्यापार या सहयोग प्रतिबंधों का सामना करते हैं, विशेष रूप से परमाणु प्रौद्योगिकी और वैज्ञानिक प्रगति जैसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में।
- ▶ ये प्रतिबंध अमेरिकी कंपनियों और सरकारी संस्थाओं को असैन्य परमाणु सहयोग में शामिल होने या सूचीबद्ध संस्थाओं को कुछ तकनीकें प्रदान करने से रोकते हैं।
- ▶ यह सूची परमाणु हथियारों के प्रसार और संवेदनशील तकनीकों के दुरुपयोग की संभावना पर चिंताओं का परिणाम थी।
- ▶ भारत के लिए, इसकी कई प्रमुख परमाणु और वैज्ञानिक संस्थाएँ इस सूची में हैं, जिससे असैन्य परमाणु और अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्रों में अमेरिका के साथ पूर्ण सहयोग में बाधा आ रही है।
- ▶ हाल ही में नीतिगत बदलावों का उद्देश्य इन संस्थाओं को सूची से हटाना है ताकि इन क्षेत्रों में अधिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।

भारत के लिए लाभ:

- ▶ उन्नत अमेरिकी परमाणु प्रौद्योगिकी तक पहुँच में वृद्धि, भारत के असैन्य परमाणु क्षेत्र में विकास को बढ़ावा देना।
- ▶ अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी संस्थानों के साथ बेहतर सहयोग, भारत की अनुसंधान क्षमताओं को बढ़ावा देना।
- ▶ भारतीय और अमेरिकी कंपनियों के बीच संयुक्त उद्यमों और साझेदारी के अवसरों में वृद्धि, विशेष रूप से अंतरिक्ष, रक्षा और परमाणु क्षेत्रों में।
- ▶ स्वच्छ ऊर्जा समाधानों के विकास में अमेरिकी विशेषज्ञता और संसाधनों तक अधिक पहुँच, भारत के ऊर्जा लक्ष्यों में योगदान।
- ▶ वाणिज्यिक अंतरिक्ष सहयोग का विस्तार, उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी साझाकरण और सहयोग के माध्यम से भारत के अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रमों को लाभ।
- ▶ वैश्विक परमाणु शासन ढाँचे में भारत की भागीदारी को सुगम बनाना, वैश्विक मंच पर इसकी स्थिति में सुधार।
- ▶ जैव प्रौद्योगिकी और एआई जैसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में त्वरित नवाचार और तकनीकी विकास।

USPC Mains Practice Question

प्रश्न: भारतीय संस्थाओं को अपनी प्रतिबंधित सूची से हटाने के अमेरिकी निर्णय के द्विपक्षीय संबंधों और तकनीकी सहयोग पर संभावित प्रभावों की जांच कीजिए। (250 Words /15 marks)

ट्विगस्टेट्स एक नई विधि है जो वैज्ञानिकों को प्राचीन आबादी की गति और वंशावली को समझने में मदद करती है।

Twigstats: new tool reveals hi-res genetic view of people's ancestors

A fresh analysis using Twigstats has determined more precisely than ever individual-level ancestry at a very high resolution. An international collaboration was even able to revisit the ancestry of population groups in the far-flung western frontiers of the Roman Empire

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

Prehistoric human ceremonial burials, mass graves, and war graves scattered around the world are a treasure trove of ancient genetic material that scientists consider key to unlocking secrets from our past. The ancient DNA (aDNA) at these sites opens windows into population dynamics, including the expansion and replacement of populations using peaceful, natural, or violent means; admixture events involving two or more sub-populations; cultural transitions; migrations for hunting; and wealth at individual, local, and global scales.

That said, tracing genetic ancestry in particular across populations still remains a challenging task. This is because populations across geographical regions often tend to be very similar, statistically speaking.

Different sample sizes

For example, studies in the past have documented genetic differences between ancient groups such as the hunter-gatherers, early farmers, and the steppe-pastoralists of the Stone and Bronze Ages. Similarly, numerous studies in recent years have provided insights into the genetic diversity of mediaeval populations across the world. But comparing the genetic ancestry of ancient and mediaeval populations has been hampered by differences in sample sizes. There are fewer samples bearing aDNA, resulting in lower sequencing quality compared to that of mediaeval or modern genomes, which come from larger cohorts.

The incorporation of genetic material in the form of gene flows laterally, from an ancient line into a modern one after ancient times, adds an additional layer of complexity.

Traditionally, researchers' studies of aDNA have involved analysing single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), which are natural genetic variations in the genomes. The method has been extensively used to reconstruct genetic histories and ancestry models using aDNA derived from Indo-European and Native American populations.

In a 2009 study, researchers from the Broad Institute in the US and the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, reconstructed India's population history as well. They analysed 25 diverse groups and identified two ancient populations in the country that were ancestral to most Indians. Ancestral North Indians were found to be genetically closer to Central Asian, European, and Middle Eastern populations, while Ancestral South Indians were a distinct group. The analysis of SNPs is a powerful technique when the task is to understand populations, but it's restricted by the need for high-quality DNA samples and its inability to resolve the histories of groups with closely related ancestors.

Combining various techniques

Alternatively, analytical methods that use haplotypes, or shared segments of DNA, and rare variants instead of only SNPs have been found to be more powerful.



Tracing genetic ancestry in particular across populations still remains a challenging task. This is because populations across geographical regions often tend to be very similar, statistically speaking. CHUTTERS/SP

Researchers have applied the genealogical tree inference method to modern and ancient genomes to understand their population structure, demographics, locations of ancestors, etc.

This method captures information from haplotype-sharing, or identity-by-descent, and rare variants simultaneously, includes time-resolved information about genetic ancestry, and provides comprehensive insights into how individuals' 'share' their ancestors.

For example, in a study published on January 1 in *Nature*, a collaboration led by the Francis Crick Institute in the UK and including multiple research groups across the UK, Japan, and Sweden developed a new way to infer genome-wide genealogies. The team has called it Twigstats. It uses time-stratified ancestry analysis that boosts the statistical power of existing methods by a magnitude and reduces statistical errors.

A particularly unique aspect of Twigstats is its ability to take into account the coalescence of populations in recent times.

The moving Viking

The authors first tested Twigstats on multiple simulated genetic conditions, including to verify using previously published work, to ascertain its robustness. Then they applied it to the task of reconstructing the genetic history of 1,556 aDNA samples belonging to individuals who lived in northern and central Europe from 500 BC to 1000 AD, spanning the Iron, Roman, and Viking ages on the European continent.

This fresh analysis using Twigstats has determined more precisely than ever individual-level ancestry at a very high resolution. The researchers were even able to revisit the ancestry of population groups in the far-flung western frontiers of the Roman Empire in the first millennium AD. Twigstats models also provided direct evidence and

high-resolution maps of the migration of individuals who spoke Germanic languages and had Scandinavian-like ancestry across Europe in the first century AD.

In the region represented by present-day Poland, the analysis of ancient genomes using Twigstats suggested a unique shift in ancestry over historical timelines. For example, the team found signs of a shift away from the corded ware cultures in the middle to late Bronze Age (1500 BC to 1000 BC). For another, in the first to the fifth centuries AD, populations associated with the Wielbark culture peeled away from Bronze Age groups.

In the appropriate historical and anthropological contexts, these insights are significant – and Twigstats should be credited for uncovering them. By analysing a large dataset of ancient genomes, the researchers could reconstruct fine population movements and admixture events that coincided with key cultural transitions, offering new insights into the genetic legacy of groups like the Vikings and the impact of modern Europeans.

The study also uncovered evidence of Scandinavian-like ancestry present in the British and the Baltic regions before the traditional commencement of the Viking Age. This suggests interactions with and migrations from Scandinavia began sooner than researchers believed was the case. The presence of Scandinavian ancestry in Britain was also linked to the Anglo-Saxon migrations, while its presence in the Baltic region indicated early contact with Scandinavian groups.

While Scandinavian ancestry expanded significantly across Europe, the study also revealed gene flows into Scandinavia before the Viking Age. Specifically, the researchers reported evidence of ancestry related to continental Europe and the British Isles in pre-Viking Age

Researchers reconstructed fine population movements and admixture events coinciding with cultural transitions, offering new insights into the genetic legacy of groups like the Vikings and the impact of migrations on the genetic makeup of Europeans

Scandinavian individuals. The implication is that the flow of genes was bidirectional. Evidence of the movements of Vikings is recorded in the genetic makeup of the populations of Britain, Ireland, and Iceland.

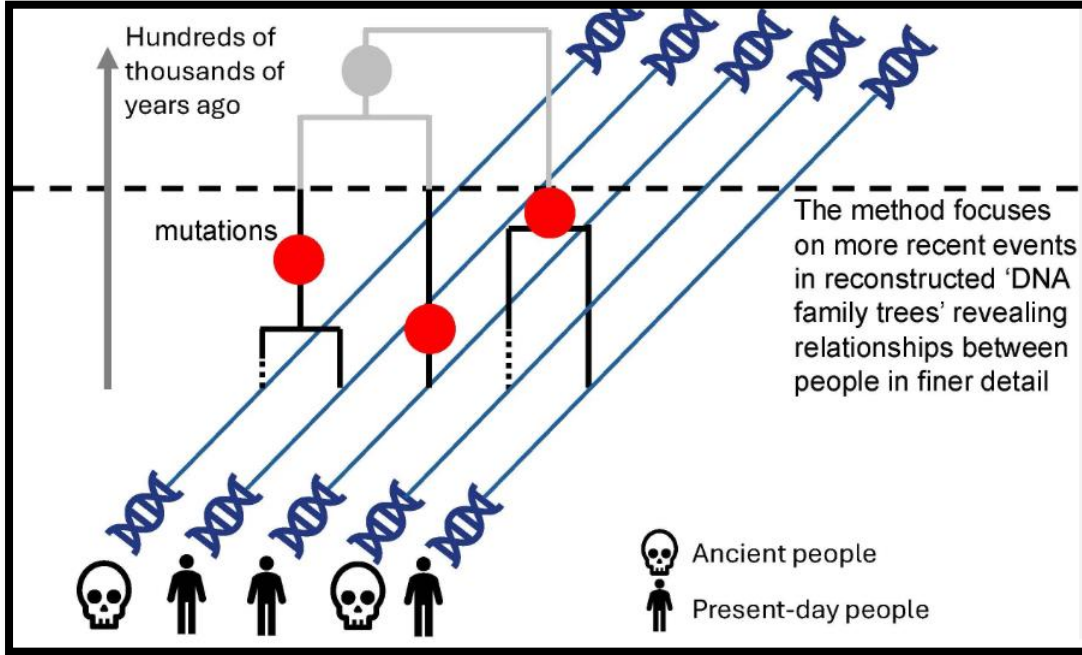
Cultures and genes

In the historical context, the study seems to confirm the widespread impact of Viking activity as well as highlight the complex and dynamic nature of population movements during the Viking Age.

Taken together, the new study is a good example of how the use of innovative methods for genomic analysis can refine our understanding of the dynamics of early mediaeval populations. By combining genetic data with archaeological and historical evidence, and adding the fact that cultural shifts are often associated with genetic changes as well, researchers can now offer a more nuanced and detailed picture of the complex processes that shaped the cultural histories of our ancestors.

As the researchers wrote in their paper, "Our approach can be used for the reconstruction of new high-resolution genetic histories around the world." (The authors work at Karkinos Healthcare and are adjunct professors at IIT Kanpur and Dr DY Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre. All opinions are personal. sridhar.sivasubbu@gmail.com, vinod.scaria@karkinos.in)

➡ यह समय के साथ सांस्कृतिक और आनुवंशिक परिवर्तनों के बारे में स्पष्ट जानकारी प्रदान करता है।



आरेख दर्शाता है कि द्विगस्टैट्स कैसे काम करता है।

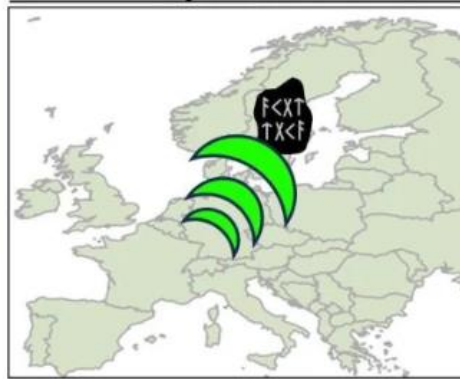
द्विगस्टैट्स क्या है?

- द्विगस्टैट्स, आबादी के आनुवंशिक इतिहास का अध्ययन करने के लिए शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा विकसित एक नई विधि है।
- यह वैज्ञानिकों को प्राचीन लोगों के वंश का पता लगाने और यह समझने में मदद करता है कि वे कैसे चले गए और अन्य समूहों के साथ घुलमिल गए।
- यह विधि जनसंख्या इतिहास की स्पष्ट तस्वीर प्राप्त करने के लिए साझा डीएनए खंडों और दुर्लभ डीएनए विविधताओं दोनों को देखती है।
- द्विगस्टैट्स त्रुटियों को कम करके और मौजूदा विधियों की सांख्यिकीय शक्ति को बढ़ाकर आनुवंशिक अध्ययनों की सटीकता में सुधार करता है।
- यह विधि प्राचीन डीएनए नमूनों के बड़े सेट का विश्लेषण कर सकती है और जनसंख्या आंदोलन और वंश के विस्तृत नक्शे बना सकती है।
- प्रवास पैटर्न का अध्ययन करने के लिए यूरोप के प्राचीन डीएनए नमूनों, विशेष रूप से वाइकिंग युग से इसका परीक्षण किया गया है।

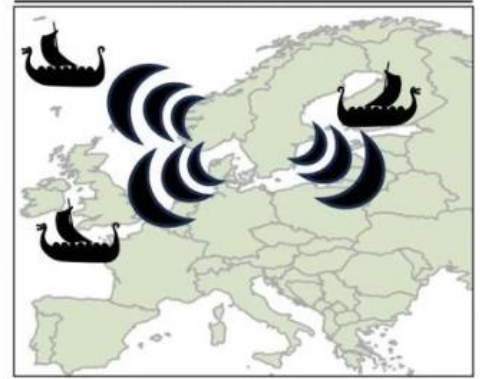
Germanic expansions
1 - 500 AD



Expansion into Scandinavia
by 800 AD



Viking Age
after 800 AD



Three waves of migrations across Europe were identified in the paper. Credit: Leo Speidel, the Francis Crick Institute

- ▶ द्विगस्टैट्स का उपयोग करके, शोधकर्ता बेहतर ढंग से समझ सकते हैं कि समय के साथ सांस्कृतिक और आनुवंशिक परिवर्तन कैसे हुए।
- ▶ यह अतीत को फिर से बनाने और प्राचीन आबादी की आवाजाही को ट्रैक करने का एक अधिक सटीक तरीका प्रदान करता है।

6 जनवरी को तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि अपने निर्धारित अभिभाषण से पहले राष्ट्रगान नहीं बजाए जाने के कारण अपना पारंपरिक अभिभाषण दिए बिना ही विधानसभा से चले गए।

Decoding the National Anthem controversy

What is the practice followed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during and after the Governor's address? Why did Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi leave the Assembly without delivering his address? Is the singing of the National Anthem during certain occasions mandatory?

EXPLAINER

D. Suresh Kumar

The story so far:

On January 6, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi left the Legislative Assembly without delivering the customary address on the opening day of the first session of the year complaining that the National Anthem was not played before his scheduled address. Last year too, he had refused to read out his address.

What did the T.N. Raj Bhavan say?

The Raj Bhavan has alleged "the Constitution of Bharat and the National Anthem were once again insulted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly". It said respecting the National Anthem is among the first fundamental duties enshrined in our Constitution. It is sung in all the State legislatures at the beginning and at the end of the Governor's address. Not to be a party to such "brazen disrespect to the Constitution and the National Anthem," the Governor left the House.

What is the practice in Tamil Nadu?

As per convention, the State anthem – 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' – is played at the beginning of the Governor's address. The National Anthem is played at the end of the address. The practice of playing the State anthem at the commencement of the Governor's address and the national anthem at the end in the Tamil Nadu Assembly was introduced in July 1991 when the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government, led by Jayalalithaa, was in power. At that time, Bhishma Narain Singh was Governor. Prior to that, the Governor would enter the House, deliver the address, and leave.

What is the practice in other States?

Each House follows its own convention. For instance, in Nagaland, the national anthem was not played at all for several



Problems in procedure: Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin salute the national flag, in Chennai on January 26, 2024. S. R. RAGHUNATHAN

decades. It was played for the first time in February 2021 when R.N. Ravi was the Governor of the northeastern State. Likewise, it was only in March 2018, that the national Anthem was played for the first time in the Tripura Assembly.

What is the practice when the President's address is delivered?

When the President reaches his seat on the dais, a band installed in the lobby of the central hall to the right of the President, plays the National Anthem. The President then reads the printed address, in Hindi or English, followed by a reading of the address in another version if necessary, by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. After the conclusion of the address, the President rises in his seat, followed by the members and visitors in the galleries, when the National Anthem is played again. The President, thereafter,

leaves the central hall in a procession.

What does the Constitution say?

Section 51 (A) (a) of the Constitution of India dealing with fundamental duties, says, "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem."

What does the order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs say?

The full version of the National Anthem shall be played on the following occasions – during civil and military investitures; when the national salute is given in accompaniment with the National Anthem to the President or to the Governor/Lieutenant Governor during ceremonial occasions within their respective States/ Union Territories; during parades; on arrival of the

President at formal State functions and other functions organised by the Government and on his departure from such functions; immediately before and after the President addresses the nation over All India Radio; on arrival of the Governor/Lieutenant Governor at formal State functions within his State/Union Territory and on his departure from such functions; when the National Flag is brought on parade; when the regimental colours are presented; and for the hoisting of colours in the Navy.

When is mass singing of the national anthem required?

The full version of the anthem shall be played accompanied by mass singing on the following occasions – on the unfurling of the National Flag, on cultural occasions or ceremonial functions other than parades; and on the arrival of the President at any government or public function (excluding formal State functions) and also immediately before his departure from such functions.

Can punishment be imposed if it isn't played at official functions?

On January 29, 2019, the Prime Minister, Tamil Nadu Governor and Chief Minister had participated at a function in Madurai for laying the foundation stone for an AIIMS building. The national anthem as well as 'Tamil Thai Vaazhthu' were not played at this function. Objecting to this, a woman had moved the Madras High Court seeking a direction to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to frame the rules for imposing punishment, and also to take action against the Chief Secretary for disobedience in not playing the National Anthem.

The court pointed out that a bare reading of her representation made it abundantly clear that when the petitioner herself has stated that there is no mandate for the National Anthem to be sung, and is only a customary practice, mandamus sought against the respondents, cannot be issued. The court dismissed her petition.

THE GIST

Each House follows its own convention. For instance, in Nagaland, the national anthem was not played at all for several decades.

In Tamil Nadu, as per convention, the State anthem – 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' – is played at the beginning of the Governor's address. The National Anthem is played at the end of the address.

Section 51 (A) (a) of the Constitution of India dealing with fundamental duties, says, "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem."

➤ राज्यपाल ने पिछले साल भी इसी तरह की परिस्थितियों में अपना अभिभाषण पढ़ने से इनकार कर दिया था।

राजभवन के आरोप

➤ तमिलनाडु राजभवन ने दावा किया कि "तमिलनाडु विधानसभा में एक बार फिर भारत के संविधान और राष्ट्रगान का अपमान किया गया।"

- इसने इस बात पर ज़ोर दिया कि राष्ट्रगान का सम्मान करना संविधान में निहित एक मौलिक कर्तव्य है।

राष्ट्रगान के संबंध में तमिलनाडु की प्रथा

- तमिलनाडु में, राज्यपाल के अभिभाषण की शुरुआत में राज्य गान, 'तमिल थाई वज़्थु' बजाया जाता है, और अंत में राष्ट्रगान बजाया जाता है।
- यह प्रथा जुलाई 1991 में जयललिता और राज्यपाल भीष्म नारायण सिंह के नेतृत्व वाली AIADMK सरकार के दौरान शुरू की गई थी।
- इससे पहले, राज्यपाल सदन में प्रवेश करते थे, अभिभाषण देते थे और बिना कोई राष्ट्रगान बजाए चले जाते थे।

अन्य राज्यों में प्रथा

- विभिन्न राज्यों में अलग-अलग परंपराएँ हैं। नागालैंड में, राज्यपाल के रूप में रवि के कार्यकाल के दौरान पहली बार फरवरी 2021 में राष्ट्रगान बजाया गया था।
- इसी तरह, त्रिपुरा ने पहली बार मार्च 2018 में राष्ट्रगान बजाया।

संवैधानिक प्रावधान और कानूनी प्रथाएँ:

- भारत का संविधान: धारा 51(ए)(ए) नागरिकों को संविधान, राष्ट्रीय ध्वज और राष्ट्रगान का सम्मान करने का आदेश देती है।
- गृह मंत्रालय का आदेश: नागरिक/सैन्य पदभार ग्रहण, राष्ट्रपति के आगमन और राजकीय समारोह जैसे औपचारिक अवसरों पर राष्ट्रगान बजाया जाना चाहिए।
- न्यायिक व्याख्या: मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय ने मदुरै में एक समारोह में राष्ट्रगान न बजाने पर सज़ा की माँग करने वाली याचिका को खारिज कर दिया।
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला: राष्ट्रगान बजाने का कोई कानूनी आदेश नहीं है; यह एक प्रथागत प्रथा है, अनिवार्य कार्य नहीं।
- कोई कानूनी परिणाम नहीं: न्यायालय ने इस बात पर ज़ोर दिया कि राष्ट्रगान न बजाने पर कानूनी कार्रवाई नहीं की जा सकती।

USPC Mains Practice Question

प्रश्न: भारत में आधिकारिक समारोहों में राष्ट्रगान बजाने से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और प्रथाओं तथा उनके कानूनी निहितार्थों की जाँच करें। (150 Words /10 marks)

चीन बढ़ते संक्रमण के कारण निमोनिया निगरानी प्रणाली का परीक्षण कर रहा है, जिसमें 14 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों में मानव मेटान्यूमोवायरस का पता लगाया गया है।

What is the human meta-pneumovirus?

Is the unknown pathogen a reason for concern? How does it spread and can it be prevented? What are the symptoms exhibited after being infected by the human metapneumovirus?

Zubeda Hamid

The story so far:

China's diseases control authority said that it was piloting a monitoring system for pneumonia of unknown origin. The country was already witnessing an upward trend in overall infections as of mid-December, and is expecting to see more respiratory infections in the winter and spring. One of the pathogens that was detected, especially among people under the age of 14, was human metapneumovirus. Subsequently, posts showing crowds of people in what looked like Chinese hospitals appeared on social media along with statements about China declaring an emergency over the virus. So far, there has been no such declaration.

What is human metapneumovirus?

Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a

respiratory virus that causes mild infections similar to that caused by a common cold. First identified by scientists in 2001, the virus belongs to the *Pneumoviridae* family, of which respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), measles and mumps are also members. HMPV can cause both upper and lower respiratory tract infections and is generally seen in winter and early spring. Children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems are more susceptible to the infection and to developing complications from it. The symptoms of HMPV can resemble those caused by a common cold. They include a cough, runny or blocked nose, sore, throat, fever and wheezing. The estimated incubation period is three to six days. In most people, the illness goes away on its own within a few days, with rest and supportive care at home. In a few people however, complications such as

bronchitis or pneumonia may arise, requiring medical care.

How does HMPV spread?

HMPV spreads through contact with an infected person or touching objects that have the virus on them. This can be through secretions from coughs and sneezes; close contact with someone who has the infection by shaking hands, hugging; touching a doorknob or a phone or a keyboard that may be contaminated with the virus and then touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

How is HMPV treated?

There is no vaccine and no specific antiviral to treat HMPV. Most people require over-the-counter medications to relieve fever and pain, possibly with a decongestant. Antibiotics will not work for HMPV. However, the virus can be prevented. As with most other respiratory

viruses, the best way to protect yourself from illness is to wash your hands frequently with soap and water, avoid close contact with infected persons, avoid touching your face, nose, eyes and mouth and wear a mask if you think you may be infected, so that you can prevent transmitting it to others. People with lung conditions such as asthma or COPD should be extra cautious and protect themselves from infection.

What has the Indian govt. said?

In light of the reports from China, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the Union Health Ministry is closely monitoring respiratory and seasonal influenza cases in the country, and is in touch with international agencies. "We will continue to monitor the situation closely, validate information and update accordingly," sources said.

HMPV cases have been confirmed in two infants from Karnataka and one in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. In Chennai too, two children tested positive for the virus. The Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in a video statement said, "Health experts have clarified that the HMPV is not a new virus. It was first identified in 2001 and it has been circulating in the entire world for many years. HMPV spreads through air, by way of respiration... The health systems and surveillance networks of the country are vigilant and there is no reason to worry."

THE GIST

Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a respiratory virus that causes mild infections similar to that caused by a common cold.

There is no vaccine and there is no specific antiviral to treat HMPV. Most people require over-the-counter medications to relieve fever and pain, possibly with a decongestant.

In light of the reports from China, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the Union Health Ministry is closely monitoring respiratory and seasonal influenza cases in the country.

- सोशल मीडिया पर अस्पतालों में भीड़भाड़ की खबरें हैं, लेकिन चीन में कोई स्वास्थ्य आपातकाल घोषित नहीं किया गया है।

ह्यूमन मेटान्यूमोवायरस (HMPV) क्या है?

- ह्यूमन मेटान्यूमोवायरस (HMPV) एक श्वसन वायरस है जो खांसी, बुखार, गले में खराश और बहती नाक जैसे हल्के सर्दी जैसे लक्षण पैदा करता है।
- इसकी पहचान 2001 में हुई थी और यह न्यूमोविरिडे परिवार से संबंधित है, जिसमें श्वसन सिंकिटियल वायरस (RSV) शामिल है।
- यह वायरस ऊपरी और निचले श्वसन पथ के संक्रमण का कारण बन सकता है, खासकर बच्चों, बुजुर्गों और कमजोर प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली वाले लोगों में।
- जहाँ ज्यादातर मामले आराम से ठीक हो जाते हैं, वहीं ब्रोंकाइटिस या निमोनिया जैसी जटिलताओं के लिए चिकित्सा देखभाल की आवश्यकता हो सकती है।

HMPV का प्रसार और उपचार

- ▶ HMPV श्वसन बूंदों और दूषित सतहों के संपर्क से फैलता है।
- ▶ इसका कोई टीका या विशिष्ट एंटीवायरल उपचार नहीं है; लक्षणों से राहत के लिए सहायक देखभाल का उपयोग किया जाता है।
- ▶ निवारक उपायों में हाथ धोना, नज़दीकी संपर्क से बचना और मास्क पहनना शामिल है।

भारत की प्रतिक्रिया

- ▶ राष्ट्रीय रोग नियंत्रण केंद्र (एनसीडीसी) कर्नाटक, गुजरात और चेन्नई में एचएमपीवी मामलों सहित श्वसन संक्रमणों की निगरानी कर रहा है।
- ▶ केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा ने आश्चस्त किया कि एचएमपीवी कोई नया वायरस नहीं है और चिंता की कोई बात नहीं है।

USPC Prelims Practice Question

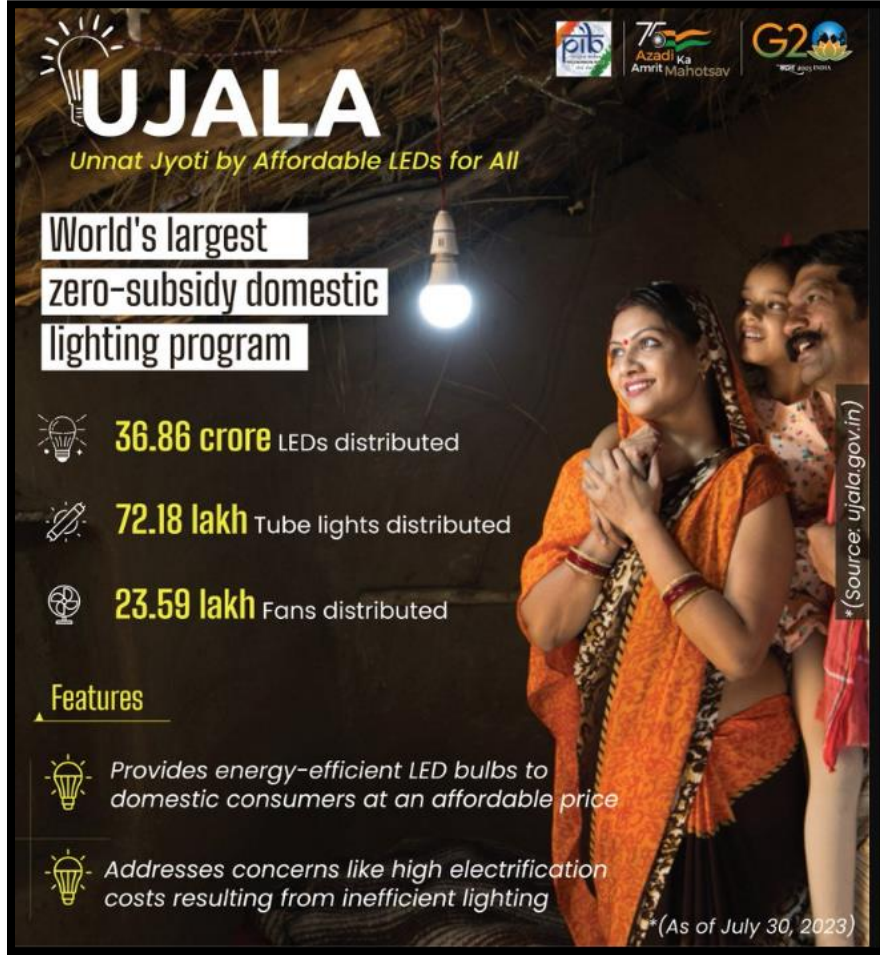
प्रश्न: ह्यूमन मेटान्यूमोवायरस (hMPV) क्या है?

- (a) निमोनिया पैदा करने वाला एक जीवाणु संक्रमण
- (b) श्वसन संक्रमण से जुड़ा एक वायरस
- (c) फेफड़ों को प्रभावित करने वाला एक फंगल रोगजनक
- (d) प्रतिरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाला एक आनुवंशिक विकार

उत्तर: b)




In News : UJALA: 10 Years of Energy-Efficient Lighting

5 जनवरी 2015 को शुरू किए गए उजाला का उद्देश्य किफायती ऊर्जा-कुशल एलईडी बल्ब, ट्यूबलाइट और पंखे उपलब्ध कराकर भारत में घरेलू प्रकाश व्यवस्था में बदलाव लाना था।





UJALA
Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All

World's largest zero-subsidy domestic lighting program

-  **36.86 crore** LEDs distributed
-  **72.18 lakh** Tube lights distributed
-  **23.59 lakh** Fans distributed

Features

-  Provides energy-efficient LED bulbs to domestic consumers at an affordable price
-  Addresses concerns like high electrification costs resulting from inefficient lighting

(As of July 30, 2023)

* (Source: ujala.gov.in)

उजाला का परिचय और उद्देश्य

- ▶ शुरू में इसे घरेलू कुशल प्रकाश कार्यक्रम (डीईएलपी) के रूप में जाना जाता था, बाद में इसे उजाला कहा गया, जिसका उद्देश्य ऊर्जा संरक्षण, विद्युतीकरण लागत को कम करना और कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कटौती करना था।
- ▶ पिछले दशक में, 36 करोड़ से अधिक एलईडी बल्ब वितरित किए गए हैं, जिससे भारत दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा शून्य-सब्सिडी प्रकाश कार्यक्रम बन गया है।

उजाला और ऊर्जा दक्षता की आवश्यकता

- ▶ भारत में पारंपरिक प्रकाश व्यवस्था अत्यधिक बिजली की खपत करती है, जिससे उपभोक्ताओं के लिए उच्च लागत आती है। सीएफएल और आईसीएल की तुलना में महत्वपूर्ण ऊर्जा बचत प्रदान करने वाले एलईडी को एक प्रमुख समाधान के रूप में पहचाना गया।
- ▶ उजाला से पहले, एलईडी बल्ब महंगे थे, जिनकी खुदरा कीमतें 450-500 रुपये के बीच थीं, जिससे वे कई लोगों की पहुँच से बाहर हो जाते थे।
- ▶ उजाला के तहत, एलईडी बल्ब 70 रुपये प्रति बल्ब की सब्सिडी दर पर उपलब्ध कराए गए, जिससे लागत में भारी कमी आई और घरों में इसे अपनाने की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ी।
- ▶ एलईडी बल्ब काफी कम बिजली का उपयोग करते हैं, 140 घंटों के लिए केवल 1 यूनिट की खपत करते हैं, जबकि सीएफएल के लिए 2 यूनिट और आईसीएल के लिए 9 यूनिट की खपत होती है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप कम ऊर्जा बिल आते हैं।

उजाला की उपलब्धियां और प्रभाव

- ▶ 6 जनवरी 2025 तक, उजाला ने 36.87 करोड़ से अधिक एलईडी बल्ब वितरित किए हैं, जिससे लाखों घरों में ऊर्जा की खपत और बिजली के बिल में बड़ी कमी आई है।
- ▶ इस कार्यक्रम ने ई-खरीद और प्रतिस्पर्धी बोली के माध्यम से पारदर्शिता और दक्षता बढ़ाई है, लागत कम की है और बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ाया है।
- ▶ आर्थिक बचत से परे, इस योजना ने भारत को अपने कार्बन पदचिह्न को कम करने में मदद की है, जिससे ऊर्जा संरक्षण और जलवायु परिवर्तन शमन के राष्ट्र के लक्ष्यों में योगदान मिला है।

स्ट्रीट लाइटिंग नेशनल प्रोग्राम (SLNP)

- ▶ उजाला के उसी दिन लॉन्च किया गया, स्ट्रीट लाइटिंग नेशनल प्रोग्राम (SLNP) का उद्देश्य पारंपरिक स्ट्रीट लाइट्स को LED लाइट्स से बदलना है, जिससे नगरपालिकाओं के लिए ऊर्जा की खपत और परिचालन लागत कम हो।
- ▶ कार्यान्वयन एजेंसी ईईएसएल ने कार्यक्रम को क्रियान्वित करने के लिए शहरी और ग्रामीण स्थानीय निकायों के साथ सहयोग किया, जिससे एक अनूठे व्यवसाय मॉडल के माध्यम से नगरपालिकाओं को अग्रिम निवेश लागत से राहत मिली।
- ▶ जनवरी 2025 तक, एसएलएनपी ने 1.34 करोड़ से अधिक एलईडी स्ट्रीटलाइट्स स्थापित कीं, जिससे सालाना 9,001 मिलियन यूनिट बिजली की बचत हुई, 1,500 मेगावाट की पीक डिमांड कम हुई और प्रति वर्ष 6.2 मिलियन टन CO2 उत्सर्जन में कटौती हुई।

निष्कर्ष

- ▶ उजाला और एसएलएनपी मिलकर ऊर्जा दक्षता को बढ़ावा देने, ऊर्जा लागत को कम करने और पर्यावरणीय क्षति को कम करने में सरकारी पहलों के प्रभाव का उदाहरण देते हैं।

- ➔ इन कार्यक्रमों ने भारत के प्रकाश क्षेत्र को बदल दिया है, जिससे घरों और नगरपालिकाओं को लागत बचाने में मदद मिली है और साथ ही एक टिकाऊ, ऊर्जा-कुशल भविष्य को बढ़ावा मिला है।

USPC Mains Practice Question

प्रश्न: आर्थिक बचत के अलावा, भारत में उजाला योजना और स्ट्रीट लाइटिंग राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम (एसएलएनपी) के पर्यावरणीय और सामाजिक प्रभावों पर चर्चा करें। (150 Words /10 marks)



The Collegium and changes — it may still be early days

Two interesting nuggets of information have emanated in recent days about the functioning of the Supreme Court of India's Collegium. As is often the case with the body's processes, reports in the media attribute the news of these decisions to unnamed sources. The collegium, the accounts say, will now conduct interviews of candidates who have been recommended for elevation as judges to the High Courts. The panel will also, to the extent possible, exclude from selection those whose close relatives have served or continue to serve as judges of the High Courts or the Supreme Court.

By themselves, neither of these resolutions might seem especially remarkable. One would think that appointments to important positions in the State — in this case, to the higher judiciary — would require careful consideration, including a meeting by the decision-makers with the nominated candidates.

One would also think that some amount of pruning of nominees is inevitable in any process of selection. Here, the collegium is conscious that a few deserving candidates might miss out in a move to exclude those with kin on the Bench, but it believes, on a balance, that this will help create a more diverse judiciary.

There is still a concern

It is too early to judge the merits of these choices. In time, they may well come to be seen as harbingers of change and reform, but, for now, a familiar concern looms large, threatening to militate against that prospect. Any reform of the collegium system — much needed as it is — will only go so far, if the government is permitted to stonewall proposals, on arbitrary, whimsical and often undisclosed grounds.

At its foundation, the collegium is a product of judge-made law. Thus, it seems to forever stand at a crossroad. It has no formal rules to bind it; it is answerable to nobody; and its functioning — whether it is in the publication of its decisions or in the opacity and the mystique of its methods — is suffused in a certain ad hocism.

Replacing this with a clear set of binding rules is essential to the maintenance of the system's integrity. For example, we are told that there exists a "memorandum of procedure". But does a breach of that manual carry with it any consequences? Will the interviewing of candidates be written into those set of rules? Who is to say how the collegium under future Chief Justices of India (CJI) will function?

In recent weeks, as we have marked the 75th anniversary of the Constitution's adoption, we have seen many a paean sung to the document's text and vision. Its survival has enlivened our commitment to equality and social justice. But that we have been unable to determine quite how



Subhrith Parthasarathy

an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

Any meaningful reform of the collegium system is possible only when the government stops stonewalling proposals on arbitrary and often undisclosed grounds

best to appoint our judges is an enduring blemish.

The Constitution's framers debated the question over many days. They were mindful of the foundational ideas underlying the republic: that the legislature, the executive and the judiciary must remain separate. But striking a balance and ensuring that the sovereign function of making judicial appointments would not come in the way of ensuring the autonomy of the courts was always going to be a sticky issue.

The 'middle course' it was

All manners of suggestions were made in the Constituent Assembly. But the drafters, in the Assembly's chairperson Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's words, chose to go down a "middle course". To that end, the Constitution provides that judges to the Supreme Court are to be appointed by the President of India in consultation with the CJI and such other judges that he or she deems fit. Judges to the High Courts are to be appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI, the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of that court. In the case of transfers, the President may move a judge from one High Court to another, but only after consulting the CJI.

These stipulations are by themselves clear. But in failing to define what manner of consultation ought to be made, in failing to explicate how transparent this process needs to be, the provisions opened themselves up for judicial consideration.

In 1993, in what is popularly known as the Second Judges Case, the Court held that "consultation" must mean "concurrence". And concurrence not only from the CJI, but from a "collegium" of judges. In the process, the Court fashioned a whole new procedure that it believed would maintain both a fidelity to the bare text of the Constitution's words and the chief objective of ensuring an independent and autonomous judiciary

The process has a number of nuts and bolts to it. But, in short, it postulates the following: the recommendation to appoint a new judge to a High Court or to the Supreme Court, to transfer a judge from one High Court to another, and to elect a new Chief Justice to a High Court, would come from the collegium — a body comprising the CJI and his senior colleagues, in some cases, two members, and in others four. The collegium will make this recommendation after taking the views of "consultee" judges. Once this recommendation is made, the Union government can either choose to accept the proposal or return the proposal for reconsideration. Upon reconsideration, if the proposal is submitted anew, the government has no choice but to sanction the resolution.

While this seems simple enough, seeing as the

law was laid down by the Court sans any attendant and binding rules, the government has a variety of means available to it to block recommendations it deems inconvenient. It can either keep the proposal pending at its end or, on a re-recommendation, stop short of issuing a presidential warrant authorising the appointment or transfer.

This has led to a curious paradox: in theory, the collegium retains primacy over judicial appointments. But the government's capacity to forestall any recommendation made means that the question of primacy remains moot, despite the Court having previously spelled out — in the Fourth Judges Case (2015) — that it is the judiciary alone that must retain pre-eminence and that any tinkering with that position would impinge on the Constitution's basic structure.

The Judges' cases and rule of law

Whatever our position on the collegium's constitutional suitability may be, today, the system represents the rule of law. The government is legally obliged to follow the procedure laid down in the Judges' cases. It enjoys no discretion in the matter. When it sits over recommendations endlessly, and when it resists proposals by simply failing to act, it is effectively stymieing the legal process.

There is no doubt that until such time we manage to find a process that can carry the requirements of accountability with independence, embracing meaningful reforms within the extant process remains critical. The law as it stands must be followed. The collegium's newest proposals address some of the long-standing concerns over its processes. But at some stage, we must also take seriously the question of implementation.

Until now, while the Court has, on occasion, asked questions of the government when it has failed to follow through on a resolution, it has stopped short of issuing express directions for compliance. Perhaps the Court has felt that orders of this kind might be seen as unnecessarily confrontational. Ultimately, in matters such as these, one would want different wings of the state working together collaboratively to ensure that the procedure stands fulfilled.

But for the collegium system to retain salience, and for it to achieve its purported objective — the maintenance of our judiciary's independence — the rulings in the Judges' cases must be accorded due respect. The Court's ability to function as a counter-majoritarian institution depends as much on its ability to declare the law as it does on its ability to ensure that the law is followed. For, as Chief Justice Coke put it, way back in 1611, summing up the essence of the rule of law, "The king hath no prerogative but what the law of the land allows him."

GS Paper 02 : भारतीय राजनीति

PYQ: (UPSC CSE (M) GS-2 2017): भारत में उच्च न्यायपालिका के न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति के संदर्भ में 'राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग अधिनियम, 2014' पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 words/10m)

UPSC Mains Practice Question: न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता और पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने में सुप्रीम कोर्ट कॉलेजियम प्रणाली द्वारा उत्पन्न चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। इसकी जवाबदेही में सुधार के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (150 Words /10 marks)

संदर्भ:

- ▶ लेख में सुप्रीम कोर्ट कॉलेजियम प्रणाली में हाल ही में किए गए सुधारों पर प्रकाश डाला गया है, जिसमें उम्मीदवारों के साक्षात्कार और न्यायिक विविधता को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयास शामिल हैं।
- ▶ यह न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकारी हस्तक्षेप और पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की आवश्यकता जैसी चुनौतियों को भी संबोधित करता है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट कॉलेजियम द्वारा लिए गए मुख्य निर्णय

- ▶ हाल की रिपोर्टें सुप्रीम कोर्ट कॉलेजियम द्वारा लिए गए दो निर्णयों का संकेत देती हैं:
 - उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के रूप में पदोन्नति के लिए अनुशंसित उम्मीदवारों के लिए साक्षात्कार आयोजित करना।
 - उच्च न्यायालयों या सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में न्यायाधीश के रूप में सेवारत या सेवा कर चुके करीबी रिश्तेदारों वाले उम्मीदवारों का चयन न करना।
 - इन कदमों का उद्देश्य न्यायिक नियुक्तियों में पारदर्शिता और विविधता को बढ़ावा देना है, हालांकि वे कुछ योग्य उम्मीदवारों को बाहर कर सकते हैं।

कॉलेजियम के कामकाज पर चिंताएँ

- ▶ सुधार की संभावना के बावजूद, सिफारिशों को रोकने की सरकार की क्षमता के बारे में चिंताएँ बनी हुई हैं।

- कॉलेजियम की प्रक्रियाओं की आलोचना औपचारिक नियमों, पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की कमी के लिए की जाती है, इसके बजाय तदर्थ तंत्र पर निर्भर करती है।

न्यायिक नियुक्तियों पर संवैधानिक प्रावधान

- संविधान में राष्ट्रपति द्वारा भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (सीजेआई) और अन्य संबंधित हितधारकों के परामर्श से न्यायिक नियुक्तियाँ अनिवार्य की गई हैं:
 - सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के लिए: सीजेआई और अन्य उपयुक्त समझे जाने वाले न्यायाधीशों से परामर्श।
 - उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के लिए: सीजेआई, राज्यपाल और उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश से परामर्श।
 - प्रावधानों में परामर्श के तरीके और पारदर्शिता पर स्पष्टता का अभाव है, जिससे व्याख्या की गुंजाइश बनी रहती है।

कॉलेजियम प्रणाली का विकास

- द्वितीय न्यायाधीश मामले (1993) ने "परामर्श" को "सहमति" के रूप में परिभाषित किया, जिसमें कॉलेजियम प्रणाली की शुरुआत की गई:
 - कॉलेजियम, जिसमें सीजेआई और वरिष्ठ न्यायाधीश शामिल हैं, न्यायिक नियुक्तियों और तबादलों की सिफारिश करता है।
 - सरकार पुनर्विचार के लिए सिफारिशें लौटा सकती है, लेकिन अगर उन्हें फिर से प्रस्तुत किया जाता है, तो उन्हें स्वीकार करना होगा।
 - चौथे न्यायाधीश मामले (2015) ने नियुक्तियों में न्यायपालिका की प्रधानता पर जोर दिया, जिसमें कहा गया कि कोई भी परिवर्तन संविधान के मूल ढांचे का उल्लंघन होगा।

कार्यान्वयन में चुनौतियाँ

- न्यायपालिका की घोषित प्रधानता के बावजूद, सरकार अनुमोदन में देरी करके या राष्ट्रपति के वारंट को रोककर सिफारिशों को रोक सकती है।
- यह विरोधाभास कॉलेजियम के अधिकार को कमजोर करता है, भले ही इसका आधार कानून के शासन में हो।

बाध्यकारी नियमों और सुधारों की आवश्यकता

- औपचारिक, बाध्यकारी नियमों की अनुपस्थिति कॉलेजियम प्रणाली को कमजोर करती है।
- इस बात पर सवाल बने हुए हैं कि क्या उम्मीदवारों के साक्षात्कार जैसे हालिया बदलावों को बाध्यकारी प्रक्रियाओं में संहिताबद्ध किया जाएगा।
- "प्रक्रिया ज्ञापन" के लिए स्पष्ट प्रवर्तन तंत्र की कमी प्रणालीगत सुधारों की आवश्यकता को उजागर करती है।

जवाबदेही और स्वतंत्रता को संतुलित करना

- न्यायालय की स्वतंत्रता कानून के शासन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, फिर भी जवाबदेही तंत्र अपर्याप्त हैं।

- ▶ जब तक कोई नई प्रक्रिया सामने नहीं आती, कॉलेजियम प्रणाली के भीतर सुधारों को पारदर्शिता, नियम प्रवर्तन और सरकारी अनुपालन पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।

आगे की राह

- ▶ सरकार को कानून को बनाए रखने और न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए न्यायाधीशों के मामलों में फैसलों का सम्मान करना चाहिए।
- ▶ प्रक्रियात्मक आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए न्यायपालिका और कार्यपालिका के बीच सहयोग आवश्यक है।
- ▶ न्यायपालिका को कानून के शासन में विश्वास को बढ़ावा देते हुए अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अपने अधिकार का प्रयोग करना चाहिए।

निष्कर्ष

- ▶ न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता को बनाए रखने के लिए कॉलेजियम प्रणाली को मजबूत करना महत्वपूर्ण है।
- ▶ भारत में कानून के शासन को बनाए रखने के लिए पारदर्शी, बाध्यकारी नियम और न्यायिक निर्णयों के साथ सरकारी अनुपालन आवश्यक है।