Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs)--

SAURABH PANDEY
CSB
SOUTH AND THE SERVICE OF THE SER

- 6th November 2024
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By saurabh Pandey



Target Mains -2025/26 -

Q "Implementation of Article 30 of indian constitution will bring fragmentation in indian society based on preference of "way of life" Examine

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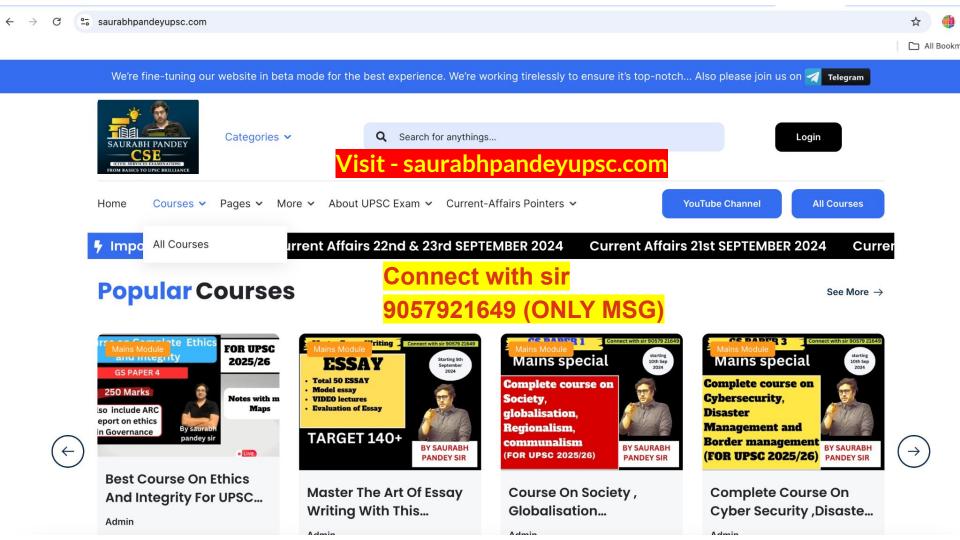


BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR FOR UPSC 2025/26

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State has no right to acquire every private property, asserts SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a majority judgment, held on Tuesday that not every resource owned by private players can be considered a "material resource of the community" to be used by the government to serve the "common good".

The decision dismissed such a power of acquisition by the state while noting that it reminded of a particular "rigid economic dogma" of the past. The court noted that the Indian economy has already transitioned from dominance of public investment to co-existence of public and private investments.

The majority opinion

authored by Chief Iustice

D.Y. Chandrachud said the

interpretation that every private property could be

used by the state as mate-

rial resource to "subserve the common good" postulated a "rigid economic theory which advocates greater state control of private resources". The interpretation was introduced by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer in his dissent-

introduced by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer in his dissenting opinion in Ranganath Reddy versus State of Karnataka in 1977.

Justice Iyer's opinion was relied on by subsequent Constitution Benches in Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing and Mafatlal Industries judgments in 1982 and 1997, respectively; hence, necessitating a reference to the nine-judge Bench.

Rejecting the view of Justice Iyer as one present-

2 judges refer to CJI's remarks on V.R. Krishna Iyer

NEW DELHI

Two SC judges quoted a "harsh" observation made by Chief Justice DY. Chandrachud about Justice V.R. Krishna lyer in a "proposed judgment", which said "the Krishna lyer doctrine does a disservice to the broad and flexible spirit of the Constitution". » PAGE 4

ing a "particular ideology", the majority opinion penned by Chief Justice Chandrachud said India has moved on from socialism to liberalisation to market-based reforms. "India's economic tra-

"India's economic trajectory indicates that the Constitution, the custodians of the Constitution the electorate have routinely rejected the idea of one economic dogma being the exclusive repository of truth. As participants of a vibrant multi-party democracy, the people have voted to power governments with various economic and social policies based on the country's evolving developments, strategies and challenges," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed in the judgment.

Constitutional vision

The court said the vision of the Constitution framers to establish an economic democracy and trust the wisdom of the elected governments has been the "backbone of the high growth rate of India's economy, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world".



TOPIC-SC on private property

m Supreme Court Ruling: A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled that not all private resources can be deemed "material resources of the community" for government use.

O Dismissal of State Acquisition Power: The court dismissed the state's power to acquire private property for the common good, criticizing it as a return to outdated economic dogma.

Economic Transition: The judgment acknowledged India's shift from public investment dominance to a balance of public and private investments.

Historical Context: The majority opinion, led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, rejected a previous dissenting view from Justice V.R. Krishna lyer, which had influenced earlier judgments.

Shift in Ideology: The court emphasized that India has evolved from socialism to liberalization and market-based reforms, reflecting a broader economic ideology.



Democratic Choice: Chief Justice Chandrachud noted that the electorate has consistently chosen diverse economic policies, rejecting the notion of a single economic dogma.

Constitutional Vision: The court highlighted that the framers of the Constitution aimed for economic democracy, which has contributed to India's rapid economic growth.

Summary: The Supreme Court ruled that not all private resources can be claimed by the state for public use, reflecting India's economic evolution and democratic choices

SC upholds U.P. Madrasa Act; State has regulatory powers

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday partially upheld the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act of 2004 while confirming that the State can regulate madrasa education to ensure standards of excellence.

Though holding that the law secured the interests of the Muslim minority community in Uttar Pradesh, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud declared the provisions of the 2004 Act pertaining to higher education at the levels of Kamil (undergraduate studies) and Fazil (postgraduate stu-

dies) were in direct conflict with the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, and thus, unconstitutional.

The Uttar Pradesh law had wandered into the Centre's exclusive domain under Entry 66 of the Union List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Entry 66 conferred the Union the authority to make laws to determine and regulate the standards of higher education.

The judgment, authored by the Chief Justice, said the 2004 Act, except at the Kamil and Fazil levels, was "consistent with the positive obligation of the State to ensure that students studying in recognised madrasas attain a minimum level



Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali, Imam of Eidgah, celebrates the Supreme Court verdict with madrasa students in Lucknow. PTI

of competency that allows them to effectively participate in society and earn a living".

He observed that the Act, which allowed the Board to prescribe the curriculum, qualification of teachers and standards of infrastructure, did not directly interfere with the day-to-day administration of recognised madrasas.

'State interest'

The court, while noting that minorities had a right under Article 30 of the Constitution to establish and administer madrasas to impart religious or secular education, said the right was "not absolute".

"The State has an interest in maintaining the standards of education in minority institutions and may impose regulational conditions for grant of aid and recognition. The Constitutional scheme allows the State to strike a balance between ensuring the standard of excellence and preserving the right of the minorities to establish and administer its educational institutions."

The unanimous judgment, with Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on the Bench, said that 'education' in Entry 25 of the Concurrent List must be given a wide meaning. Though recognised madrasas imparted religious in-

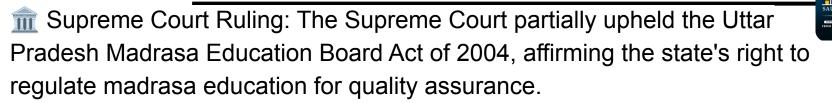
struction, their primary aim was education, bringing them within the ambit of Entry 25.

Chief Iustice explained that Article 21A must be read consistently with the rights of religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. The Madrasa Board under the Act, with the approval of the State government, was free to enact regulations "to ensure that religious minority institutions impart secular education of a requisite standard without destroying the minority character".

OUESTION OF LAW VALIDITY

» PAGE 4

Topic - SC on Madrasa ACT



[2] Constitutional Conflict: Provisions related to higher education (Kamil and Fazil levels) in the 2004 Act were deemed unconstitutional as they conflicted with the University Grants Commission Act.

State's Role: The court emphasized the state's obligation to ensure madrasa students achieve a minimum competency level for societal participation and employment.

Minority Rights: While minorities have the right to establish and manage madrasas under Article 30, this right is not absolute and can be regulated by the state.

Balance of Interests: The judgment highlighted the need for a balance between maintaining educational standards and preserving minority rights in educational administration.

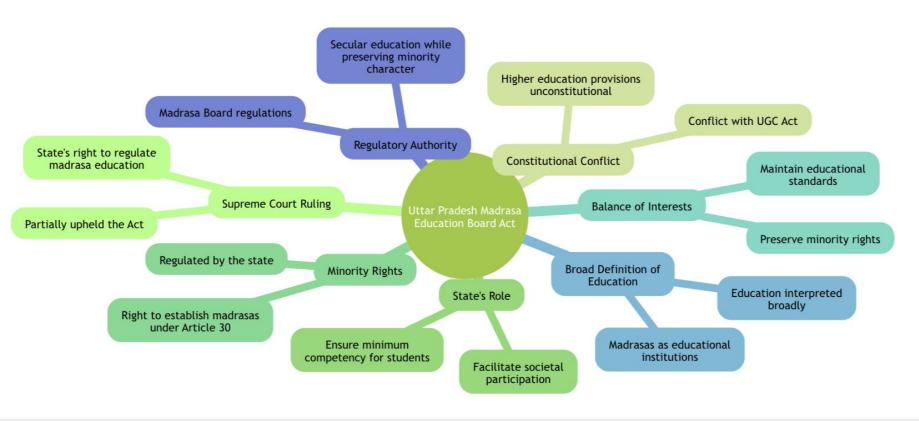


Selection Selection: The court interpreted 'education' in the Concurrent List broadly, recognizing madrasas' primary aim as education, despite their religious instruction.

Regulatory Authority: The Madrasa Board can enact regulations to ensure that minority institutions provide secular education while maintaining their minority character.

Summary: The Supreme Court upheld the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, affirming state regulation of madrasa education while recognizing minority rights, but declared higher education provisions unconstitutional.





If tardigrades crowd-sourced their remarkable genes, can humans?

These remarkable creatures inhabit some of the more extreme ecosystems on the planet, from the frigid expanses of deep-sea floors to scorching deserts and even the vacuum of snace. Researchers have identified more than 1.300 tardigrade species to date, each one adapted to conditions deadly to most other life forms

Sridhar Sivasubbu Vinod Scaria

ardigrades are one of the most resilient as well as enigmatic life forms on the earth. These organisms, also called water bears and moss piglets, are microscopic eight-legged creatures without a backbone.

They inspire awe with their remarkable ability to survive in extreme environments, including areas so very radioactive that they are easily lethal to humans. They can also survive starvation, lack of air and water, and subzero temperatures.

An ancient survivor

Belonging to a phylum of their own (Tardigarda), these remarkable creatures inhabit some of the more extreme ecosystems on the planet, from the frigid expanses of the Arctic and deep-sea floors to scorching deserts and even the vacuum of space. Researchers have identified date: each species is uniquely adapted to conditions that would be deadly to most other forms of life.

Evolutionarily, the tardigrades are an ancient species. The earliest known fossils date from around 90 million years ago, in the Cretaceous Period. Molecular dating suggests they originated at least 600 million years ago.

When facing hostile environments, tradigardes can enter a state called cryptobiosis, effectively passing almost all cryptobiosis, effectively passing almost all their biological processes and ingering in peculiar state allows them to tolerate extreme dryness, intense radiation, and freezing. Tardigrades' ability to survive radiation is due to specialised mechanisms that can shield their genetic just survive otherwise luxardous radiation, they are able to recover and resume normal libration.

Lessons of the tardigrade

Their features have rendered tardigrades a subject of intense scientific study. Researchers hope unlocking the secrets of their specialised survival mechanisms will pave the way to advances in human medicine, space exploration, and others.

Research has indicated the presence of many mechanisms that help tardigrades, and insights into them are expected to hold great biomedical and industrial value. For example, researchers have of late been discussing



A false-colour image of a tardigrade. FILE PHOTO/K

disordered proteins.

One subgroup of these is secretory-abundant heat-soluble proteins. Researchers recently attempted to synthesise these proteins in other microbes by cloning the underlying genes and transferring them to the latter. Their work suggested such a method is capable of enhancing the tolerance of the microbes against ediscatent (complete drying up.). This work was published in Nature Communications Bologor in Mature Communications In Mature Com

Another paper published last year in the same journal explored molecules called small heat shock proteins and, in a similar approach, demonstrated that they could enhance microbes' ability to survive hot conditions as well as prevent proteins from clumping up when they dry out.

Survival begins in the cell

More recently, researchers from China reported a new tardigrade species, Hyssibius henanensis. Their findings, reported on October 25 in Science, included a chromosome-level genome assembly that revealed many details

Tardigrades are an ancient species. The earliest known fossils date from around 90 million years ago, in the Cretaceous Period. Molecular dating suggests they originated

at least 600 million years ago the lethal limit for humans and tracked which genes were expressed using genomic tools.

The researchers found thousands of genes upregulated when the tardigrades were exposed to extreme radiation. Further analysis suggested that the radiation resistance is likely modulated by genes that can be acquired by horizontal transfer, i.e., from other species in their environment. The researchers also genes, as well as genes similar, yet not identical, to one; in other oransisms.

In fact, horizontal gene transfer contributed more than 0.5% of the tardigrades' genes, which is a significant fraction that signals its significance to the that could be protecting the tardigrades' cells against radiation damage. The creatures probably acquired it from a bacterial species.

A second class of genes involved in radiation resistance are unique to the tardigrades themselves. One of them is TRIDI, which plays a role in repairing damaged DNA mediated by phase separation. Another is NDUFINS, associated with mitochondrial function. The researchers identified them to be crucial to the species' ability to survive extreme conditions by tilkely helping maintain the stability of cells and the properties of the species' and the stability of cells and the stab

Applications on the horizon

Tardigrade biology may seem exotic at this time, and the research exploring it may seem esoteric. But a lot of biology makes sense in the light of evolution (to adapt the words of Theodosius Dobzhansky), and umlocking the mysteries of the tardigrade may quickly translate to breakthroughs in real-world challenges with far-reaching implications. Recall that scientists developed CRISPR-CaS based on unique incohanism in a bacteria to repair its

Consider protein stability in tardigrades. We are using biological therapies such as protein vaccines, antibodies, and enzymes to treat a variety of diseases more often. If we can find a way to stabilise the proteins involved in these technologies, we can increase their biological efficacy as well.

As the field of cell therapies continues to grow, researchers are looking for technologies to protect these therapeuts products in harsh conditions they may encounter during storage, transport, and administration. Tardigrades possess unique adaptations to resist or even sidestep cellular damage, and researchers date in from them to find ways to biomedicine.

Taken together, tardigrades provide a unique blueprint for developing robust biological systems and materials. Their exceptional survival mechanisms could inspire new strategies in medicine, biotechnology, and beyond, leaving critical therapies and technologies more resilient, effective, and crucially, widely accessible.

(Sridhar Sivasubbu and Vinod Scaria work at Karkinos Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. and

THE GIST

Tardigrades can induce cryptobiosis and linger in suspended animation. This allows them to tolerate dryness, radiation, and freezing

Researchers are attempting to synthesise secretory-abundant heat-soluble proteins used by tardigrades in other microbes to enhance tolerance against desiccation. This research has implications for medicine and space exploration

•

When tardigrades were exposed to gamma rays 1,000 times greater than the lethal limit for humans, thousands of genes upregulated in response. Radiation resistancis likely modulated by genes acquired by horizontal transfer

. .

Researchers seek ways to protect cell based therapies in harsh conditions encountered during transport, and administration. Tardigrades possess adaptations to resist cellular damage and provide a unique blueprint for robust biological systems:

Topic -- > Tardigrades: Masters of Survival



Resilience and Adaptation

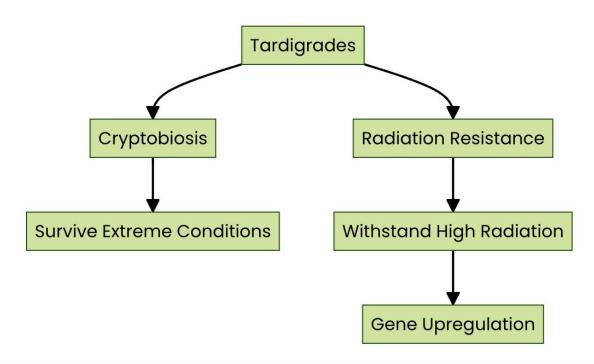
Cryptobiosis: Tardigrades can enter a state of cryptobiosis, enabling survival in extreme conditions such as dryness, radiation, and freezing. Cryptobiosis is a reversible state of extreme inactivity that organisms enter to survive adverse environmental conditions

A Protein Synthesis: Researchers aim to synthesize heat-soluble proteins from tardigrades to enhance desiccation tolerance in other microbes.

Applications: Potential uses in medicine and space exploration, improving the resilience of biological systems.



Tardigrade Resilience:



Genetic Insights and Innovations_

Radiation Tolerance: Tardigrades endure gamma radiation levels 1,000 times higher than lethal doses for humans, with thousands of genes upregulating in response.

Gene Transfer: Their radiation resistance may be influenced by genes acquired through horizontal gene transfer.

Medical Transport: Inspired by tardigrades' cellular damage resistance, scientists explore methods to protect cell-based therapies during transport and administration.

Model for Robust Systems: Tardigrades offer a unique model for developing biological systems capable of enduring harsh environments.

Summary: Tardigrades demonstrate extraordinary resilience through cryptobiosis and genetic adaptations, inspiring advancements in medical and space research.

About Tardigrade



- Tardigrade, (phylum Tardigrada), any of more than 1,100 species of free-living tiny <u>invertebrates</u> belonging to the phylum Tardigrada.
- They are considered to be close relatives of <u>arthropods</u> (e.g., <u>insects</u>, <u>crustaceans</u>). Tardigrades are mostly about 1 mm (0.04 inch) or less in size.
- They live in a variety of habitats worldwide: in damp <u>moss</u>, on <u>flowering</u> <u>plants</u>, in <u>sand</u>, in fresh water, and in the sea. In adapting to this wide range of external conditions, a large number of genera and species have evolved.
- Tardigrades have a well-developed head region and a short body composed of four fused segments, with each segment bearing a pair of short, stout, unjointed limbs generally terminated by several sharp <u>claws</u>.





Rising STEM research demands revitalised education

igher educational institutions in India face significant challenges. While private engineering colleges, the newer Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and universities have expanded access to education over the last few decades, studies show that a vast majority of students graduating from these colleges lack the basic skills that are required by industry. Research institutes have also voiced concerns about the quality of students who wish to pursue higher studies. While industries and premier research institutions have managed with top students from these colleges, there is a problem now. Across various sectors, there is a struggle to find students who are skilled, and it is alarming that the number of students pursuing higher education has dwindled. At this rate, institutions, which are already grappling with the issue of faculty shortages, will face even greater challenges in the years ahead. Large sums of money announced for initiatives such as quantum computing, cybersecurity or artificial intelligence could go underutilised in the absence of qualified talent. This widespread problem threatens the socio-economic fabric of the country.

Quality of training is an issue

The root cause lies in the quality of training in teaching institutions. Many faculty members are products of their own institutions and are often pressured to chase papers and patents for their colleges to maintain their rankings, often at the expense of scholarship and pedagogy. This results in poor-quality graduates, with a domino effect on industry standards, research output, and faculty quality. While upskilling programmes, outreach initiatives, internships and online courses could address the problem to some extent, these efforts are not scalable enough to meet ever-increasing demand for skilled professionals. This article offers some broad ideas, based on the experiences of the writers, which may be of help. These suggestions call for a rebalancing of current efforts and a more imaginative use of existing resources.

Premier institutes such as the IITs, the Indian Institutes of Information Technology, the National Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and other centrally funded institutions recruit about 5% of India's undergraduate students. For instance, IIT Bhubaneswar admits fewer than 60 students annually for its computer science programme. In comparison, the private KIIT University admits over 2,000 students a year for the same discipline. Similar comparisons can be made between IIT Madras and private institutions such as SRM and VIT. This means almost all the students in the pipeline to industries and research institutions come from colleges where 95% of the students study. The proposals in this article aim to strengthen this pipeline and foster

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Professor of Civil Engineering at IIT Madras

With large sums of money being announced for initiatives such as quantum computing, cybersecurity, or artificial intelligence, it is essential to find students who are skilled: it is

a struggle now

greater collaboration between research institutions and teaching institutions. To make the distinctions clear in this article, institutions with large undergraduate programmes will be referred to as "teaching institutions" and those focused on research (such as premier institutes) as "research institutions," even though they engage in both teaching and research. The ideas in this article are for research institutions, teaching institutions, and the agencies that monitor them – all geared toward improving research, pedagogy, and incentive structures. These proposals echo the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

The first idea is to stop ranking teaching institutions and their faculty members based heavily on research output, such as papers and patents. Given the lack of a robust research environment in many teaching institutions, this emphasis on research output encourages participation in predatory conferences and publications. India, unfortunately, is a country with a large presence of predatory outlets. As a result, limited resources are diverted from improving pedagogy to producing low-quality research, further degrading student learning outcomes. Ranking teaching institutions separately, based more on their teaching quality, could alleviate some of this pressure.

Change focus

Until the quality of students entering the pipeline improves, faculty at teaching institutions should focus more on pedagogy and less on research. While this may reduce research output in the short term, it will significantly enhance the quality of education and research in the long term. Teaching institutions should lay greater emphasis on faculty development programmes, mentorship, teacher evaluations, and newer courses, online and offline, Collaborations with research institutions on teaching methods and pedagogy should be strongly encouraged. One way to achieve this is by creating a dedicated teaching track within the academic hierarchy at these institutions, such as 'teaching assistant, associate and full professor'. Faculty members interested in pursuing research should be encouraged to collaborate with their counterparts in research institutions. Funding agencies can incentivise and mandate such collaborative projects. The ANRF's Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) programme already calls for such initiatives.

For this idea to succeed, it is important that faculty promotion criteria in teaching institutions are based on pedagogical skills, assessed through appropriate metrics. This can be incentivised through state and Central government funding to establish centres of excellence in pedagogy, such as centres of excellence in research, and by mandating pedagogical components and inter-institutional collaborations when evaluating

grant proposals.

Explore joint agreements

The second idea is for research institutions to establish joint degree agreements with teaching institutions. These agreements should be stronger than one-off workshops or outreach programmes. For instance, top-performing students at teaching institutions could spend their final two years in research institutions, receiving a "hyphenated degree" bearing the insignia of both institutions. To make this feasible, the curricula at teaching institutions must be aligned with those of research institutions, in content and pedagogy, Faculty from research institutions can engage with their counterparts in teaching institutions through regular workshops, on-site visits, and hands-on training in the best pedagogical practices. Resources must be allocated to support these partnerships as they will help reverse the decline in the quality of teaching in undergraduate-focused institutions. This initiative can begin with one research institution partnering with one teaching institution for a couple of degree programmes, and expand gradually. Such joint agreements would yield three major

benefits: improved student quality in research institutions, enhanced teaching and curriculum quality in teaching institutions, and revitalisation of the teaching institutions themselves. Variations of this model already exist on a small scale. For instance, select third-year civil engineering students from NIT Surat spend their final year at IIT Bombay and are automatically admitted to the M.Tech. programme. Similar student-transfer programmes exist between community colleges and research-intensive universities in the United States, significantly improving both access and quality. Many Indian teaching institutions already have agreements with international universities, so there is no reason why such agreements cannot be established in India, and even within the same city. These agreements would not only facilitate student mobility but also promote faculty exchanges between the two types of institutions. The ideas proposed in this article, which advocate a rebalancing of current efforts, can produce two key outcomes: a much needed refocus on pedagogy that will raise the quality of undergraduate education; and an improvement in research output as a result of less pressure on faculty. These proposals do not require major additional resources, but only a willingness to embrace creative thinking. While science and engineering have been used as examples, the ideas here are equally applicable to fields such as the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Revitalising the country's teaching institutions is critical to producing a larger, higher-quality talent pool, capable of driving innovative research and scientific discoveries.



The views expressed are personal

Topic - Higher Education and Stem research_



Skill Gap: A significant number of graduates from Indian higher educational institutions lack essential skills required by industries.

Quality of Training: The quality of training in teaching institutions is poor, largely due to faculty focusing on research output over effective pedagogy.

Institutional Disparity: Premier institutes like IITs admit only about 5% of undergraduate students, while private institutions enroll the majority, affecting the quality of graduates entering the workforce.

Research vs. Teaching: The current ranking system prioritizes research output, which leads to a decline in teaching quality and encourages participation in predatory academic practices.

Underutilized Resources: Large investments in advanced fields like quantum computing and AI may go to waste due to a lack of qualified talent.

Collaboration Needed: There is a need for stronger collaboration between teaching and research institutions to improve the quality of education and research.

Policy Alignment: The proposals align with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Focus on Pedagogy: Teaching institutions should prioritize pedagogy over research to improve student quality in the long term.

Faculty Development: Emphasis on faculty development programs, mentorship, and teacher evaluations is essential for enhancing educational quality.

Collaborations Encouraged: Strong collaborations between teaching and research institutions on teaching methods should be promoted.

Joint Degree Agreements: Establishing joint degree agreements can enhance student quality and curriculum alignment between institutions.

Incentivizing Collaboration: Funding agencies should incentivize collaborative projects between teaching and research institutions to improve educational outcomes.

Pedagogical Assessment: Faculty promotion criteria should focus on pedagogical skills, assessed through appropriate metrics to enhance teaching quality.

Broader Applicability: The proposed ideas can be applied across various fields, including arts, humanities, and social sciences, to revitalize teaching institutions.

Summary: Emphasizing pedagogy and fostering collaborations between teaching and research institutions can significantly enhance the quality of education and research outcomes.

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Industry requirements unmet 1
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                                                                                   Poor teaching quality 1
                                                     Quality of Training 1
                                                                                   Faculty focus on research 1
                                                                                      Limited IIT admissions 1
                                                     Institutional Disparity 1
                                                                                      Private institutions' impact 1
                                                                                       Research prioritized over teaching 1
                                                     Research vs. Teaching 1
                                                                                       Predatory academic practices
                                                                                         Investments in advanced fields 1
                                                     Underutilized Resources
                                                                                         Lack of qualified talent 1
                                                                                       Teaching and research synergy 1
                                                     Collaboration Needed
                                                                                       Improve education quality 1
                                                                                  NEP and ANRF objectives 1
Enhancing Education and Research in India
                                                     Policy Alignment 1
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                                                                                      Development programs 1
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                                                                                      Mentorship and evaluations 1
                                                                                            Teaching methods collaboration 1
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                                                                                           Promotion criteria on pedagogy 2
                                                     Pedagogical Assessment 2
                                                                                           Enhance teaching quality 2
                                                                                      Across arts, humanities, social sciences 2
                                                     Broader Applicability 2
                                                                                      Revitalize teaching institutions 2
                                                                            Emphasize pedagogy 2
                                                     Summary 2
                                                                            Foster teaching-research collaborations 2
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Skill Gap 1

Graduates lack essential skills 1

Aadhaar biometric data access will aid forensics

he Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has strict regulations about the disclosure of data in order to protect a person's right to privacy and ensure that there is no misuse of personal data. In the normal course of events, the police do not have access to either demographic or biometric information in the Aadhaar database. While Section 33(1) of the Aadhaar Act permits the disclosure of certain information under an order of a court not inferior to that of a High Court judge, Section 29(1) and the proviso to Section 33 itself make it very clear that "core biometric information", which includes fingerprints and iris scans, cannot be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever.

Upholding rights and the dilemma

However, there are cases, especially those which involve identifying unknown bodies, where access to fingerprint data can offer essential scientific support to an investigation and reinforce the fundamental right to a life with dignity. The dilemma here involves balancing the two components of the right to life i.e., the right to privacy with the right to life with dignity. A number of rulings by High Courts and the Supreme Court of India have highlighted the need for respectful and humane treatment of bodies. For example, courts have addressed issues such as the inhumane practice of keeping a prisoner's body hanging for an extended period after death during an execution (as outlined in certain prison manuals), as well as the need to ensure the respectful repatriation of the bodies of migrant workers who die abroad.

There are cases of deceased individuals who are unknown, but investigation by the police later show that they are predominantly from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Many are daily wagers in the informal sector or are migrants moving between districts and States. They also involve individuals who have strained family relationships. These factors, of a lack of close connections, communication breakdown, and unequal access to the criminal justice system, are what frequently result in missing person



Ch Sindhu Sarma

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While the Aadhaar Act's provisions on core biometric information help in protecting privacy, there is a compelling case in re-evaluating these restrictions in specific contexts reports not being filed by family or the next of kin. These unidentified bodies are either homeless people or those living in makeshift accommodations on highways, victims of hit-and-run accidents without identification documents or mobile phones, or those with mental health issues and travelling to unfamiliar places. In some instances, they may be victims of homicide, with the bodies disposed of in remote areas by the perpetrators to escape detection.

When an unidentified body is found, the standard investigative procedure is to examine the body, photograph it and make a note of distinctive features such as tattoos, scars, or deformities. Evidence is collected from the scene, CCTV footage analysed, phone records if available, scrutinised and information sent to local police stations, border districts and the media. There are also checks against prior missing person reports. Fingerprints are also collected and sent to fingerprint bureaus to be matched against criminal records.

The value of fingerprints cannot be overstated. Even in cases where a body is severely decomposed, fingerprints can still be retrieved by experts – the ridge pattern-bearing skin of the fingertips is retrieved and placed in a solution of formaldehyde.

A limited database

Unfortunately, fingerprint databases for police investigations are often limited to the records of those with known criminal histories. In many States, these records are not yet digitised, making it even more difficult to cross-reference data quickly and efficiently. In these situations, accessing the Aadhaar database would help in the identification of bodies. If a fingerprint search returns a match, the police could potentially identify the individual, and help family members with the last rites. it would also ensure that investigations, especially in cases of homicide, proceed effectively.

In this scenario, the absolute prohibition in the Aadhaar Act, against sharing core biometric information for any purpose, is a significant

challenge. In the United States, law enforcement agencies can access advanced identification tools through the Deceased Persons Identification (DPI) Services. These services utilise advanced algorithms to match the deceased person's fingerprints against extensive databases which include those managed by the Departments of Homeland Security and Defense.

While the Aadhaar Act's provisions on core biometric information serve a crucial role in protecting privacy, there is a compelling case in re-evaluating these restrictions in specific contexts, such as identifying a deceased person. Providing the police with access to a deceased person's core biometric information, strictly based on a first information report (FIR), cannot be said to violate any constitutional norms.

Such disclosure, after verification of the FIR registered regarding the unidentified body under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (earlier Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and which deals with police inquiry when information is received regarding unnatural deaths) should not, ideally, require a High Court order (as required by Section 33 of the Act). It can be on the order of the jurisdictional judicial magistrate. This reduces the burden on the higher judiciary in handling cases where access does not raise concerns about violations of privacy. Through well-defined and legally sound mechanisms, this approach ensures the dignity of both the living and the deceased.

Tracing the identities of the deceased using all available legal means is not just a practical necessity for law enforcement agencies aiming to uphold public safety or a way to provide closure to grieving families. It is a constitutional imperative. It is rooted in the right to life, which extends beyond mere animalistic existence. The law must safeguard this right for all individuals, particularly for those from poor, marginalised, and socially disadvantaged backgrounds, who already face unequal access to the criminal justice system.

The views expressed are personal

Topic - Aadhaar Data



Data Protection: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) enforces strict regulations to protect personal data and privacy rights.

Legal Framework: Section 33(1) of the Aadhaar Act allows information disclosure only by a High Court order, while Section 29(1) prohibits sharing core biometric data like fingerprints and iris scans.

Dilemma of Rights: There is a conflict between the right to privacy and the right to life with dignity, especially in cases involving unidentified bodies.

Vulnerable Populations: Many unidentified deceased individuals come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, often lacking family connections or communication.

Investigation Procedures: Standard procedures for unidentified bodies include examining, photographing, and collecting evidence, including fingerprints for identification.

Fingerprint Recovery: Fingerprints can be retrieved even from severely decomposed bodies, highlighting their importance in forensic investigations.

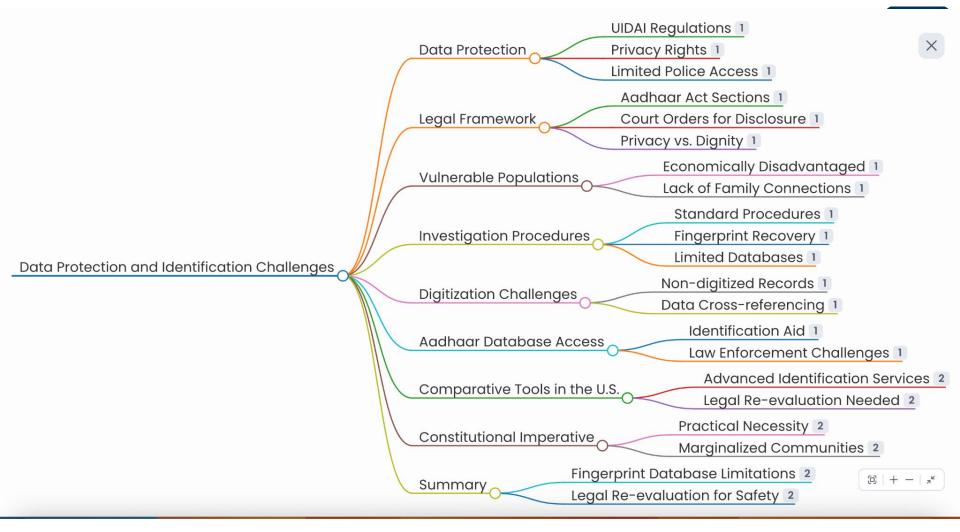
Limited Fingerprint Databases: Police investigations often rely on fingerpring databases that are restricted to individuals with known criminal histories, complicating identification efforts.

- Digitization Challenges: Many states have not digitized their fingerprint records, hindering quick and efficient data cross-referencing.
- Adhaar Database Access: Accessing the Aadhaar database could aid in identifying deceased individuals, allowing police to assist families with last rites and improve homicide investigations.
- Addhaar Act Restrictions: The Aadhaar Act prohibits sharing core biometric information, posing challenges for law enforcement in identifying deceased persons.
- Comparative Tools in the U.S.: In the U.S., law enforcement uses advanced identification tools like Deceased Persons Identification Services, which match fingerprints against extensive databases.

Legal Re-evaluation Needed: There is a need to reconsider the restrictions on sharing biometric information in specific contexts, such as identifying deceased individuals, without violating constitutional norms.

Constitutional Imperative: Tracing identities of the deceased is not only a practical necessity but also a constitutional imperative, particularly for marginalized communities facing unequal access to justice.

Summary: The limitations of fingerprint databases and Aadhaar Act restrictions hinder effective identification of deceased individuals, necessitating a legal re-evaluation to uphold public safety and constitutional rights.



China's messy EV dispute with Europe keeps trade tensions in check

SAURABH PANDEY

CSE

FROM RADICS TO UPIC BRILLIANCE

European diplomats, veterans in complex multilateral negotiations that can take years to iron out, believe Beijing wants to avoid a trade war; China has strong incentives to contain the dispute: its economy is slowing and it needs to find buyers for its EVs to ward off deflationary pressures

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters BEIIING

ears of a widening tariff war between china and other major exporting nations are keeping diplomacy between the world's secondlargest economy and the European Union alive, even as trade talks over electric vehicles stall.

While the U.S. election on Tuesday is almost certain to result in more American curbs on Chinese goods, European negotiators are investing in a longer game that may yield no immediate resolution but would at least stop an escalating trade conflict.

Some EU member states are even using the dispute to bolster bilateral ties away from the Brussels-Beijing negotiations and attract fresh investment from China.

"I don't think China wants this thing to significantly torpedo the EU-China relationship, especially given the fact we will probably be seeing a very different world (after the U.S. election)," said Bo Zhengyuan, a Shanghai-based partner at Plenum, a

consultancy.

New EU tariffs of up to 45.3% on Chinese EV imports came into effect last week after a year-long investigation that divided the



Damage control: Amid U.S. curbs, Beijing is wary of broader damage to its trade ties with EU. REUTERS

bloc and prompted retaliation from Beijing.

Brussels maintains that Beijing doles out unfair subsidies to its auto industry and refuses to accept China's counter-offer of mimimum import prices. Beijing hit back with probes into Europe's pork and dairy industries and imposed curbs on brandy imports.

Beyond the headlines, however, is a more complicated series of negotiations.

Beijing has in recent months hosted a procession of official visits from the EU and its member

A French junior trade minister is visiting Shanghai this week, with Paris keen to continue developing commercial ties in Chi99

I don't think China wants this thing to torpedo the EU-China relationship since we will be seeing a very different world (after the U.S. election)

BO ZHENGYUAN Partner, Plenum

na's financial capital. France is also a "Country of Honour" at China's annual flagship import expo, despite Beijing having placed retaliatory import

tariffs on its brandy.

While little progress has been made in even approaching a resolution, engagement remains a priori-

ty, analysts say.
"I am not terribly opti-

at Merics, a Berlin-based China studies institute. "I am sure certain member states will be pushing for this to demonstrate their willingness or ability

mistic that the Chinese side

will put anything on the ta-

ble that the EU will accept,

but I probably should also

be curbing my pessimism a

bit, and would not dis-

count a solution," said Max

Zenglein, chief economist

to work out a deal." A divided union

As Washington steps up its curbs on Chinese products, Bejijng is wary of broader damage to its trade ties with the EU, worth \$783 billion last

For its part, the EU is conscious of widening the

division the tariffs have already created among its members.

Among the bloc's 27 member states, 10 voted for the tariffs, five voted against and 12 abstained. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, was among the dissenters.

"The definitive lack of a majority against the tariffs meant that some countries' 'no' votes were symbolic," one European diplomat said.

"Some EU countries want more in-country investment from China and hoped for less retaliation by not voting for the tariffs outright," they added.

Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico is the latest European leader to visit Beijing, seeking deeper two-way trade and investment ties as insurance against a wider fallout with China.

Finland, which abstained, last week also agreed to deepen commercial ties with China during a visit by President Alexander Stubb, following Spain's and Italy's lead.

Chinese compulsions

China has incentives to contain the dispute: Its economy is slowing and it needs to find buyers for its EVs to ward off deflationary pressures.

ary pressures.

European diplomats, veterans in complex multilateral negotiations that can take years to iron out,

said it was clear Beijing wanted to avoid a trade war, but it only started talks with Brussels relatively late in the process.

While both China and the EU have launched challenges against each other at the World Trade Organization, that arbitration could take years.

"Chinese action on brandy, pork and dairy imports from the EU is probably baked in at this point," said Noah Barkin, senior advisor at Rhodium Group.

"A win for the EU would be Beijing limiting its response to brandy, pork and dairy, and then both sides hashing it out at the WTO," he added.

Barkin warned a less contained response could see China curb EU access to the critical raw materials it needs for a green energy transition.

During his visit to China in September, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Spain would seek to resolve the EV dispute within the WTO.

While that would signal a failure of bilateral talks, it would head off a worsening in relations.

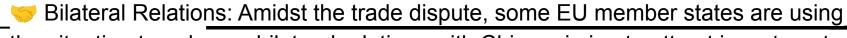
"I think there is a chance they will come to some agreement, regarding the minimum prices, but this will not lead to the removal of the tariffs, just a readjustment of the rates," said Plenum's Mr. Bo on EU talks. "That is probably the best outcome."

Topic - Diplomatic and Trade Dynamics between China and the



EU

- Diplomatic Efforts: Ongoing diplomatic initiatives are being driven by fears of a potential trade war between China and major exporting nations, particularly focusing on the EU. These efforts continue despite stalled trade discussions on electric vehicles.
- U.S. Election Impact: The upcoming U.S. election is anticipated to result in stricter American restrictions on Chinese goods. This situation is prompting the EU to consider a more strategic, long-term approach in its negotiations with China.
- New Tariffs: The EU has imposed new tariffs, reaching up to 45.3%, on imports of Chinese electric vehicles. This decision follows a comprehensive year-long investigation into alleged unfair subsidies provided by Beijing.



the situation to enhance bilateral relations with China, aiming to attract investment despite the broader tensions.

Economic Concerns: China's motivation to resolve the trade dispute is heightened by its slowing economy. The country is eager to find buyers for its electric vehicles to counteract deflationary pressures.

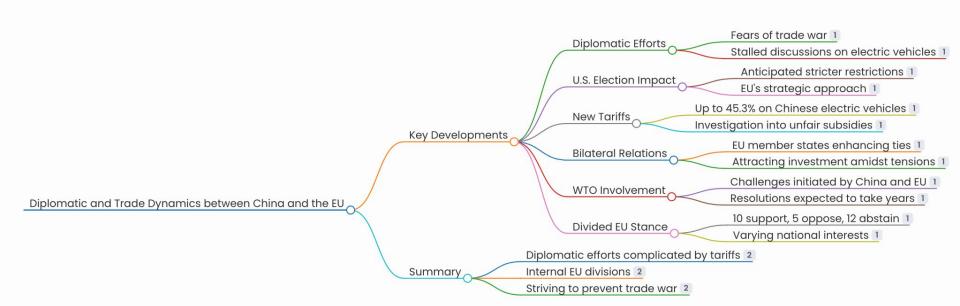
WTO Involvement: Both China and the EU have initiated challenges against each other at the World Trade Organization. However, resolutions through this channel are expected to take several years.

Divided EU Stance: The EU is facing internal divisions over the tariffs, with 10 member states supporting them, 5 opposing, and 12 abstaining. This division underscores the varying national interests within the EU.

Summary

Ongoing diplomatic efforts between China and the EU are being complicated by new tariffs on electric vehicles and internal divisions within the EU. Both sides are striving to—prevent a full-scale trade war.





DOHA

SAURABH PANDEY CSE ENGINEER TO THE SELLIFACE FROM EASICS TO UPSC BEILLIANCE

Qatar votes in referendum on scrapping legislative elections



AFP

Qataris went to the polls on Tuesday in a referendum on ending a brief and limited experiment with legislative elections in the wealthy monarchy. Voters among the gas-rich peninsula's roughly 3,80,000 Qatari nationals cast their ballots on constitutional changes that would scrap the legislative council polls. AFP

TIR IN NEWS



- Qataris went to the polls in a referendum on ending a brief and limited experiment with legislative elections in the wealthy monarchy.
- Voters among the gas-rich peninsula's roughly 3,80,000 Qatari nationals cast their ballots on constitutional changes that would scrap the legislative council polls.

Russian rocket launches Iranian satellites into orbit as Moscow, Tehran expand ties

Associated Press

MOSCOW

A Russian rocket on Tuesday blasted off successfully to carry a pair of Iranian satellites into orbit, a launch that reflected growing cooperation between Moscow and Tehran.

The Soyuz rocket lifted off as scheduled from Vostochny launchpad in far eastern Russia and put its payload into a designated orbit nine minutes after the launch. It was carrying two Russian Ionosphere-M Earth observation satellites and several dozen smaller satellites, including the two Iranian ones.

Iran's two satellites, named Kowsar and Hod-



Ascending heights: The Soyuz rocket blasts off from its launchpad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia. REUTERS

hod, were the first launched on behalf of the country's private sector. In 2022, a Russian rocket launched an Iranian Earth observation satellite called Khayyam that was built in Russia on Tehran's order, and in February Russia put another Iranian satellite named Pars-1 into orbit.

Tuesday's launch comes as Russia and Iran have expanded ties in various spheres. Ukraine and the West have accused Tehran of providing Moscow with hundreds of exploding drones for use on the battlefield in Ukraine and helped launch their production in Russia. The Iranian drone deliveries, which Moscow and Tehran have denied, have allowed for a constant barrage of long-range drone strikes at Ukraine's infrastructure.

Pezeshkian visit

Moscow and Tehran are planning to further bolster their ties with a "comprehensive strategic partnership" that is set to be signed during Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian's planned visit to Russia.

Topic → **Kowsar** and **Hodhod**,



A Russian Soyuz rocket successfully launched on Tuesday from the Vostochny launchpad, carrying Iranian satellites into orbit.

The payload included two Iranian satellites, Kowsar and Hodhod, marking the first launch for Iran's private sector.

The rocket also carried two Russian Ionosphere-M Earth observation satellites and several dozen smaller satellites.

The launch reflects increasing cooperation between Russia and Iran, particularly in space technology.



➢ Previous collaborations include the launch of the Iranian Earth observation satellite Khayyam in 2022 and Pars-1 in February.

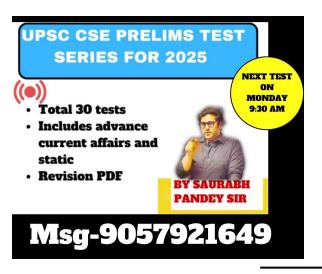
X Ukraine and the West have accused Iran of supplying drones to Russia for use in the Ukraine conflict, which both countries have denied.

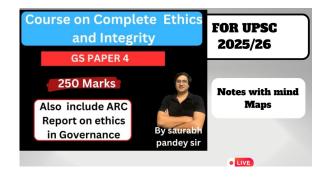
A "comprehensive strategic partnership" is expected to be signed during Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's upcoming visit to Russia.

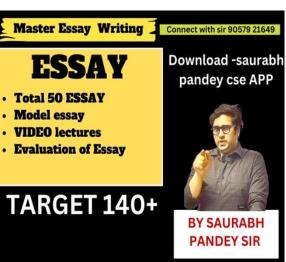
Summary: A successful Russian rocket launch on Tuesday carried two Iranian satellites into orbit, highlighting the growing cooperation between Moscow and Tehran amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

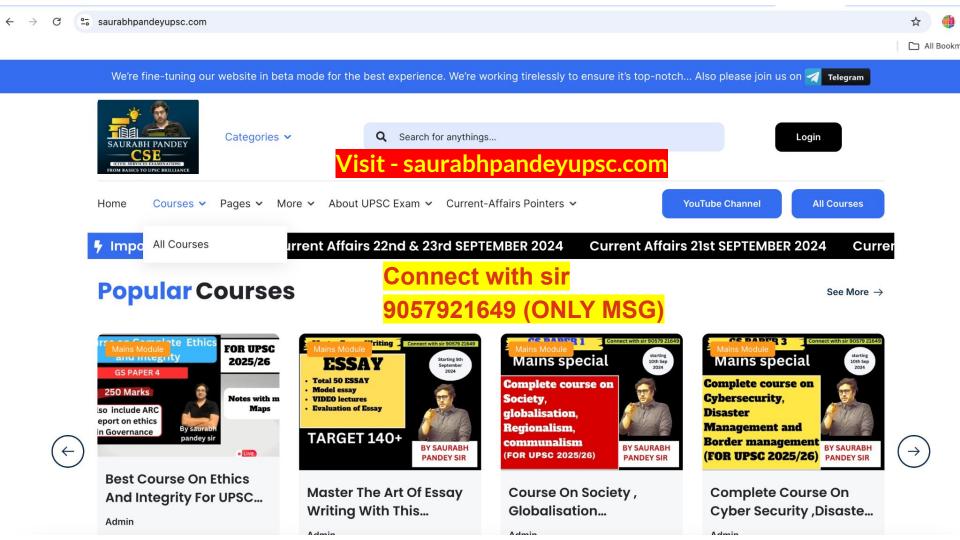


















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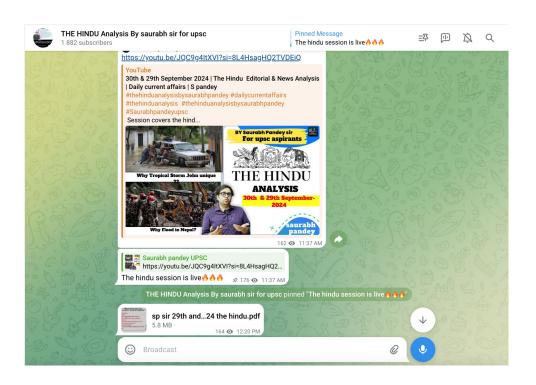


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