

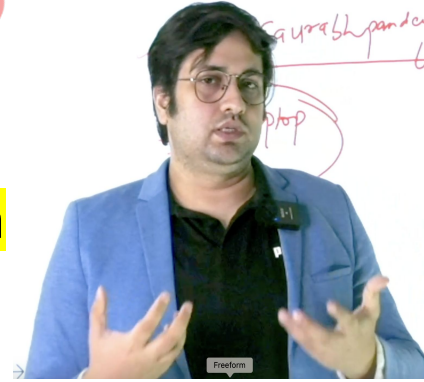


Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs)

5th APRIL 2025



- **Waqf (Amendment) Bill,**
- **HANSA-3 NG aircraft**
- **The Impact of Trump's Trade Policies:**
- **SC ON SPEAKER ROLE RELATED TO Defections**
- **Chimpanzees' Ingenious Tool-Making in Gombe Stream National Park.**
- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan**



By saurabh Pandey



The name of the two bills are- Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024. It was first introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024.

What is its objective?

It aims to modify the Waqf Act, 1995, to address challenges in the regulation and oversight of Waqf properties. The proposed amendments focus on enhancing the administration and ensuring more effective management of Waqf assets across India.

- Overcome the shortcomings of the previous act and enhance the efficiency of Waqf boards by introducing changes such as renaming the Act
- Updating the definitions of Waqf
- Improving the registration process
- Increasing the role of technology in managing Waqf records

What are the issues regarding Waqf board?

Following are the issues regarding the Waqf board, according to the central government:

- **Irrevocability of Waqf properties:** The doctrine of "once a Waqf, always a Waqf" has sparked controversies, including claims over islands in Bet Dwarka, which courts have found to be legally complex and challenging.
- **Legal disputes and poor management:** The Waqf Act, 1995, and its 2013 amendment have been ineffective, leading to issues such as illegal land occupation, mismanagement, ownership disputes, delays in registration and surveys, and a surge in litigation and complaints to the ministry.
- **No judicial oversight:** Waqf tribunal decisions cannot be appealed in higher courts, limiting transparency and accountability in Waqf management.

- **Incomplete survey of Waqf properties:** Poor performance by the survey commissioner has caused delays, with surveys yet to begin in Gujarat and Uttarakhand, and a 2014 survey in Uttar Pradesh still pending. Lack of expertise and coordination with the revenue department has further slowed registration.
- **Misuse:** Some state Waqf boards have misused their powers, creating community tensions. Section 40 of the Waqf Act has been widely misused to declare private properties as Waqf, leading to legal disputes. Of 30 States/UTs, only 8 have reported, with 515 properties declared as Waqf under Section 40.
- **Constitutional validity:** The Waqf Act applies solely to one religion, with no similar law for others. A PIL in the Delhi high court questions its constitutionality, prompting the court to request a response from the central government.

Key reforms in Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024

WAQF

Separation of Trusts from Waqf: Muslim-created trusts under any law will no longer be considered Waqf, ensuring full control over trusts.

Eligibility for Waqf dedication: Only practicing Muslims (for at least five years) can dedicate their property to Waqf, restoring pre-2013 rules.

Women's rights in family Waqf: Women must receive their inheritance before Waqf dedication, with special provisions for widows, divorced women, and orphans.

Government land & Waqf disputes: An officer above the rank of Collector will investigate government properties claimed as Waqf. **Strengthening Waqf tribunals:** A structured selection process and fixed tenure ensure efficient dispute resolution.

Reduced annual contributions: Waqf institutions' mandatory contribution to Waqf Boards reduced from 7% to 5%.

Annual audit reforms: Waqf institutions earning over Rs 1 lakh must undergo audits by State-appointed auditors.

Technology & central portal: A centralized portal will automate Waqf property management, improving efficiency and transparency.

Transparent Waqf management: Mutawallis must register property details on the central portal within six months.

Non-Muslim representation: Two non-Muslim members will be included in Central and State Waqf Boards for inclusivity.

Application of the limitation act: The Limitation Act, 1963, will now apply to Waqf property claims, reducing prolonged litigation.

Ending arbitrary property claims: Section 40 is removed, preventing Waqf Boards from arbitrarily declaring properties as Waqf.

How will the bill benefit the poor?

- The digitization of Waqf property management through a centralized digital portal will improve tracking, identification, and oversight, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Auditing and accounting measures will prevent financial mismanagement, ensuring funds are used for welfare purposes.
- By preventing misuse and illegal occupation of Waqf lands, revenue will increase, allowing Waqf Boards to fund programs in healthcare, education, housing, and livelihood support for the economically disadvantaged.
- Regular audits and inspections will further promote financial discipline and build public trust in Waqf management.

CSIR-NAL signs technology transfer deal with firm to make HANSA trainer-planes

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

In a first, the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) – a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) body – has signed a technology transfer agreement with a private company to manufacture trainer airplanes in India. This would be the first time that the aircraft would be manufactured in India based on technology fully designed and developed indigenously.

The HANSA-3 NG aircraft is a two-seater aircraft and is the latest iteration of the HANSA planes that have been made by NAL since 1998. Fourteen HAN-



Union Minister Jitendra Singh during the announcement of ToT partner for HANSA-3 (NG).

SA planes have been made over the years by NAL and used by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Indian Institutes of Technology. “We have now managed to seal a partnership with a private company which will manufacture these planes,” said N. Kalaiselvi,

Director-General, CSIR.

The company, Pioneer Clean AMPS Pvt Limited, is expected to set up manufacturing facilities as well as handle marketing, servicing and after-sales, though NAL would be closely involved in the initial years to help them with various aspects of the manufacturing and operations, said Abhay Pashlikar, Director, CSIR-NAL.

The HANSA-NG is powered by a Rotax Digital Control Engine with features such as a composite light weight airframe, a glass cockpit, a bubble canopy with wide panoramic view, and electrically operated flaps, among other features, a brochure says.

HANSA-3 NG aircraft



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- The HANSA-3 NG aircraft is a two-seater aircraft and is the latest iteration of the HANSA planes that have been made by NAL since 1998.
- Fourteen HANSA planes have been made over the years by NAL and used by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Indian Institutes of Technology.

American retreat

The U.S. risks ceding its position as a global economic powerhouse

What United States President Donald Trump did to global trade on April 2 in Washington closely mirrors a disruptive precedent set by President Richard Nixon in 1971. On August 15, Nixon stunned the world by announcing the “temporary suspension” of the U.S. dollar’s convertibility into gold. This effectively dismantled the Bretton Woods framework that was worked out quite unilaterally in 1944, which led to the setting up of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and provided an anchor for global currency stability – an avenue to address balance of payments crises, and to finance the reconstruction efforts of former colonial powers. Though announced as a temporary move, it became permanent and upended the global financial system, as nations reckoned with a new era of financial market volatility. Similarly, Mr. Trump’s reciprocal tariffs have instantly ushered in global economic uncertainty, the full extent of which will be felt in the months and the years ahead. By unilaterally altering trade relationships, he has disrupted the very system of interconnected global commerce that the U.S. helped build in the post-war era.

The international reaction has been one of shock and concern. The U.S. is the world’s largest importer of manufactured goods, accounting for about 13% of global imports in 2023. The new tariffs will reroute supply chains and force countries to diversify their export strategies. In the immediate term, the cost of imports will rise for American consumers, leading to reduced demand. The ripple effects will be global, causing production slowdowns as exporters scramble to find alternative markets. Economies such as China, Japan, India and the European Union are likely to experience a temporary decline in economic growth. Yet, unlike in the Nixon era, the U.S. today holds a diminished position in global trade. In the 1970s, it was the world’s dominant trader, with an estimated 13%-15% share of global trade. China’s presence was negligible at the time, accounting for less than 1%. Today, China commands the largest share of global trade, at around 14%, while the U.S. has slipped to roughly 10%. The international community also accepted the dollar’s supremacy in the 1970s because of America’s overwhelming economic and technological dominance. Now, although the dollar remains the preferred reserve currency, the centre of economic gravity has shifted. The world’s leading exporters of advanced technologies are now China and other Asian powers, including South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. Thus, Mr. Trump’s turn to protectionism – an attempt to regain American economic dominance – may well hasten the country’s retreat from its hegemonic position.

The Impact of Trump's Trade Policies: A Modern Echo of Nixon's Disruption

Introduction

- Seismic shifts in global trade often bring to mind Richard Nixon and Donald Trump.
- On April 2, , Trump's new trade tariffs echoed Nixon's 1971 decision to suspend the U.S. dollar's convertibility into gold.

Nixon's Bold Move: A Historical Context

The Bretton Woods Framework:

- Established in 1944 to stabilize global financial systems.
- Created institutions like the World Bank and IMF.
- Aimed at post-war recovery and economic stability.

•



The Suspension of Dollar Convertibility:

- On August 15, 1971, Nixon announced the suspension of dollar convertibility into gold.
- This dismantled the Bretton Woods system, leading to financial market volatility.
- Nations had to adapt to a rapidly changing economic landscape.

Trump's Trade Policies: A New Era of Uncertainty

Overview of April 2 Tariffs:

- Designed to protect American industries but sparked global economic uncertainty.
- Disrupted the interconnected global commerce system.

Immediate Economic Reactions:

- Shock and concern globally, as the U.S. is the largest importer of manufactured goods.
- Tariffs expected to reroute supply chains and affect export strategies.
- American consumers face higher import costs and reduced demand.

The Global Trade Landscape: Then and Now

The U.S. Position in Global Trade:

- In the 1970s, the U.S. held a 13%-15% share in global trade.
- Today, the U.S. share has declined to around 10%, while China commands about 14%.
- **The Rise of China and Other Economies:**
 - Shift in economic power with countries like China, South Korea, and Japan leading in technology exports.
 - Complicates Trump's protectionist agenda.

The Ripple Effects of Protectionism

Supply Chain Disruptions:

- Tariffs likely to cause significant disruptions.
- Companies must find alternative markets and suppliers, leading to production slowdowns and increased costs.

Impact on Global Economies:

- Economies like China, Japan, India, and the EU may experience temporary growth declines.
- The interconnectedness of global trade means U.S. actions have far-reaching consequences.

The Future of Global Trade

Potential Long-term Consequences:

- Uncertain future with potential for a fragmented global trade system.
- Increased volatility is a real possibility.

The Shift in Economic Power:

- Economic gravity has shifted, and Trump's policies may hasten the U.S.'s retreat from dominance.
- Global developments are closely watched.

Conclusion

- Parallels between Nixon's and Trump's actions are striking.
- Both leaders made bold moves disrupting global trade, but the context has changed.
- The world of global trade is evolving, with implications felt for years to come.

Taken to task

The Supreme Court is right in pushing Speakers to act decisively on defections

The issue of defections in Legislative Assemblies has become a vexed one in public life in recent years. Ruling parties – the Bharatiya Janata Party in particular – have adopted an unabashed approach to augment their legislative support by encouraging defections. A commonly used modus operandi – used egregiously in Manipur in the late 2010s and later in Maharashtra – involves the Speaker, invariably from the ruling party, sitting on disqualification petitions from Opposition parties against legislators who have defected. Some defectors have even been sworn in as Ministers, pending adjudication on their party-switching by the Speaker. Many States have seen the unedifying sight of mass defections to the ruling party just after elections, making a mockery of the democratic exercise. The latest is the situation in Telangana where the petitions filed by the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) in March-April 2024, to disqualify 10 of its legislators who defected to the Congress, were notified by the Speaker only in January this year. The Supreme Court, hearing a petition by the BRS seeking timely action by the Speaker, has rightly observed that it was not “powerless” if a Speaker chose to remain indecisive. Justice B.R. Gavai’s observation that the courts cannot tell a Speaker how to decide, but that they could ask the Speaker to decide within a reasonable period, is a rational one.

A five-judge Constitution Bench, in May 2023, had reposed its faith in the Speaker’s “propriety and impartiality” to decide on defections, but “within a reasonable period”. Flowing from this judgment, the Court had, in October 2023, fixed a deadline for the Maharashtra Speaker to decide defection pleas from the Opposition after the undue delay by him in hearing them. Yet, the issue is persistent. This is inevitable as Speakers are invariably elected from ruling parties and rarely act in a non-partisan manner, despite the expectation that they will do so. In 2020, the Court had asked Parliament to amend the Constitution to strip Legislative Assembly Speakers of their exclusive power to decide upon whether legislators should be disqualified or not under the Tenth Schedule which frames the anti-defection law. It had also asked for an independent tribunal, instead of the Speaker, to be appointed for the task. No such action has been taken by Parliament since then and the problem of defections going unaddressed by Speakers within a reasonable time frame persists. If the Court forces the hand of the Speaker in Telangana, it might be one more blow for decisive action. But the scourge of defections and how it is dealt with will remain as long as voters do not punish those who indulge in such practices.

SC ON SPEAKER ROLE RELATED TO Defections

What Are Defections?

Legislators switching allegiance from one party to another, raising concerns about democratic integrity.

The Anti-Defection Law

Aims to prevent party switching but faces challenges in enforcement.

The Role of Ruling Parties

Allegations of encouraging defections to strengthen assembly positions.

Historical Context: Manipur and Maharashtra

Notable instances of mass defections, disillusioning voters.

The Speaker's Dilemma

The Speaker's Role in Disqualification

Often from the ruling party, creating a conflict of interest.

The Indecisiveness of Speakers

Delays in disqualification petitions undermine democracy.

Recent Developments in Telangana

The Bharat Rashtra Samiti's Petition

Filed petitions to disqualify defectors, highlighting process delays.

Supreme Court's Intervention

Emphasized the need for timely action by Speakers.

The Need for Reform

Calls for Constitutional Amendments

Suggested to strip Speakers of exclusive disqualification powers.

The Proposal for an Independent Tribunal

Aimed at restoring faith in the democratic process.

The Persistent Nature of the Problem

Why Defections Continue to Thrive

Speakers' partisan actions perpetuate defections.

Conclusion





Defections remain a troubling aspect of politics, undermining democracy.

Supreme Court efforts are noted, but decisive action is needed from Speakers and ruling parties.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Chimpanzees' Ingenious Tool-Making in Gombe Stream National Park.

Ingenious Tool-Making by Chimpanzees

-  **Engineering Skills:** Chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park exhibit remarkable engineering skills in crafting tools.
-  **Selective Plant Use:** They choose specific plants to create tools that are flexible, enhancing their termite fishing capabilities.
-  **Nutritional Benefits:** Termites are a rich food source, offering energy, fat, vitamins, minerals, and protein.
-  **Tool Usage:** Chimpanzees use thin probes to extract termites from their intricate mounds.





Complex Mounds: The termite mounds have complex, winding tunnels, necessitating the use of flexible tools over rigid ones.



Research Hypothesis: Researchers propose that the flexibility of tools increases the efficiency of termite fishing.




Cognitive Abilities: The study underscores the cognitive abilities of chimpanzees in adapting their tool-making strategies.



Summary: In Tanzania, chimpanzees demonstrate advanced engineering skills by crafting flexible tools from specific plants to efficiently fish for termites, a crucial food source.

Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

Initiative Overview

 Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan: A program by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare targeting the elimination of tuberculosis (TB) in India by 2025.


Objectives

-  Enhancing Patient Support: Aims to improve treatment outcomes.
-  Community Involvement: Focuses on increasing community participation in TB elimination efforts.


Corporate Involvement

 CSR Activities: Encourages corporate participation to support TB elimination.


Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative

 Support Components: Provides diagnostic, nutritional, and vocational support for TB patients.

Donor Participation

 Ni-kshay Mitra (Donor): Allows individuals and organizations to adopt health facilities or regions to strengthen the fight against TB.

Digital Support

 Ni-kshay Digital Portal: A platform for community support for individuals affected by TB.

Commitment Timeline



Goal: Achieve India's commitment to end TB by 2025.

Summary: The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan is a comprehensive initiative aimed at eradicating tuberculosis in India by 2025 through enhanced patient support, community involvement, and corporate engagement

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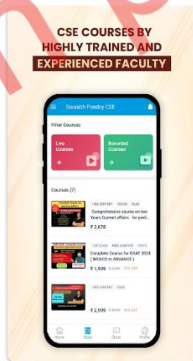
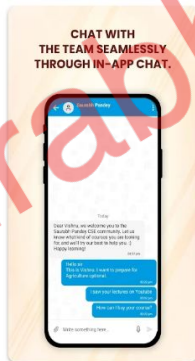
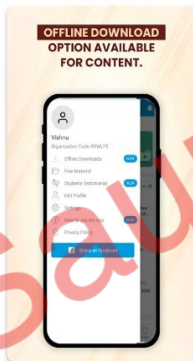
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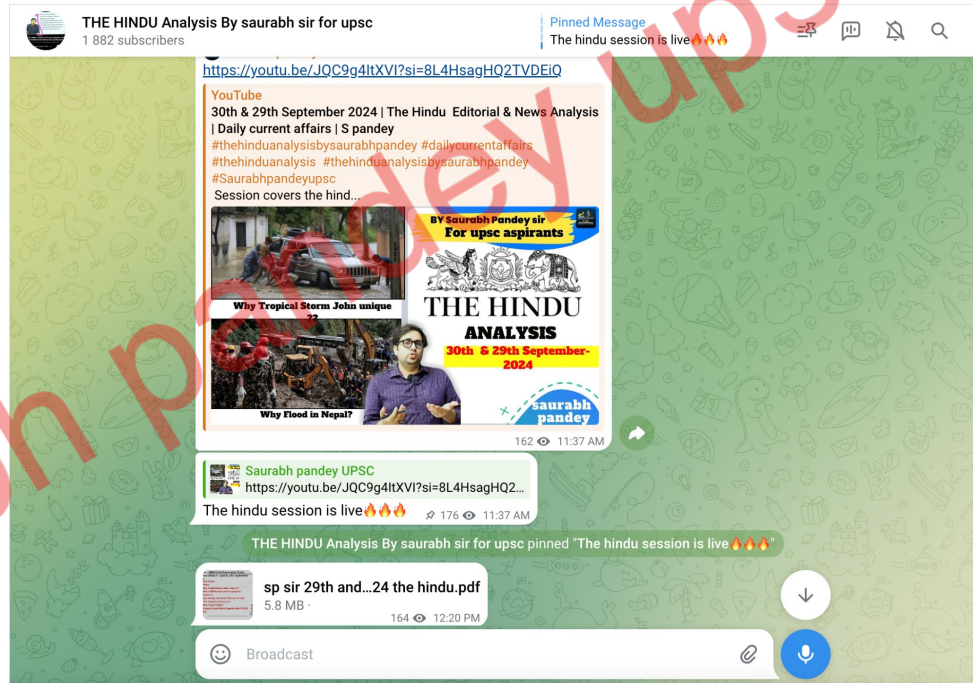


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