

14th Nov, 2024

1. SC puts brakes on 'Bulldozer Culture' GS 2 (Governance)

- **Why in News:** The **Supreme Court of India** recently laid down a set of guidelines to ensure that demolitions of properties by state authorities follow due process and do not serve as a form of punishment without trial. This ruling came after cases where properties were demolished for alleged involvement in criminal activities, particularly in states like **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan**. The guidelines aim to protect **citizens' rights and ensure transparency in such actions**.
- **Case Background and Trigger**
 - The case was prompted by incidents in Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh) where state authorities demolished properties of individuals accused of crimes, raising concerns about due process violations.
 - The Supreme Court's verdict followed a reference by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who criticized such demolitions as a form of **"bulldozer justice,"** which bypasses legal procedures.
 - Several petitions challenged the practice of demolishing properties as a punitive measure, particularly when no court order exists or trial has been held.
- **What is Bulldozer Justice?**
 - "Bulldozer Justice" refers to the practice where government authorities demolish the properties of individuals accused of crimes, such as rioters or protestors, often without a legal trial.
 - This involves using heavy machinery like bulldozers to tear down homes or businesses, as a way to punish these individuals swiftly.
 - There are **no provisions in Indian law** that allow for demolishing property as a punitive measure.
 - **Why it is supported?** Supporters of "Bulldozer Justice" see it as a deterrent to discourage unlawful activities. They believe it provides **instant justice**, in contrast to the **lengthy judicial process**.
- **Supreme Court's Guidelines**
 - The Supreme Court laid down a series of clear, constitutional guidelines for demolitions:
 - **Notice Requirement:** The property owner or occupier must be given at least 15 days' notice before any demolition. This notice should include details of the structure, reasons for demolition, and a date for a personal hearing.
 - **Transparency:** A copy of the notice must be sent to the local authorities, with an acknowledgment of receipt to prevent backdating.
 - **Hearing and Final Order:** A hearing must be conducted where the property owner can present their case, and the minutes of the hearing must be recorded.
 - The **final demolition order** must include clear reasons explaining why demolition is the only option, whether the entire structure or only part of it is to be demolished, and the arguments presented by the property owner.
 - **Post-Order Procedure**
 - **15-Day Grace Period:** After the final demolition order is issued, there must be a 15-day window before the demolition is carried out, allowing the owner to remove the structure or challenge the order in court.
 - **Documentation:** Before demolition, authorities must record the condition of the property with video evidence. A detailed report, including the personnel involved in the demolition, must also be prepared.

SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture'

Bench says States indulging in naked display of 'might is right'; issues 'binding directives' that include 15 days' prior notice to occupants

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the States that metamorphose into judges to punish accused persons awaiting trial by driving bulldozers into their homes, indulge in a naked display of "might is right" without sparing a thought for families rendered shelterless overnight.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan invoked extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to issue a slew of "binding directives" to fasten accountability on public officials.

They include 15 days' prior notice of demolition to the occupants with details of the nature of the unauthorised construction



Wheels of injustice: Workers razing the property of an accused in an RSS attack case in Jaipur in October, citing violations. PTI

and grounds warranting demolition; the owner or occupants who want to challenge the State action must be given a fair opportunity; the demolition must be videographed, etc.

Officials will face action
Officials who violate these directives would face contempt action and would be prosecuted. They would be

liable for the restitution of the demolished property, the court said. The judgment followed petitions representing citizens from States, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, who had sought redress against the States' "bulldozer culture".

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• SC's Reasoning and Legal Principles

○ Separation of Powers

- **Judiciary vs Executive:** The Supreme Court emphasized that it is the judiciary's responsibility to determine guilt, not the executive (government authorities). Demolition cannot be used as a punishment before a person has been tried and convicted in court.
- **Unconstitutional Punishment:** Demolishing property without judicial approval amounts to an unconstitutional punishment, as the executive cannot replace the judiciary's role.

○ Public Trust and Accountability

- **Accountability of Public Officials:** The Court stressed that officials who issue demolition orders must be held accountable. High-handed actions by the state, like demolishing properties without following due process, undermine public trust and must be corrected.
- **Transparency:** The guidelines aim to ensure transparency in government actions and prevent arbitrary decisions that could harm innocent people.

○ Right to Shelter

- **Protection of Innocent Lives:** The Supreme Court reinforced that the **right to life under Article 21** of the Constitution includes the **right to shelter**. Demolishing the property of an accused person could unfairly affect other family members who are innocent.
- **Targeting Specific Properties:** The Court noted that demolitions should not appear to target specific individuals or families as a form of collective punishment. When similar violations in the area are ignored, it suggests an improper motive.

2. The CKM Syndrome as the price of modernity GS 2 (Health)

- **Why in News:** Cardiovascular Kidney Metabolic (CKM) syndrome is a growing public health crisis, exacerbated by lifestyle changes and globalization, with Tamil Nadu as a focal point in highlighting the rising burden of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**, including **obesity, hypertension, and diabetes**, contributing to premature deaths and a strain on health resources. This issue is being underscored in light of **World Diabetes Day** on November 14.

• Health Burden & Statistics

- **Rising Prevalence of NCDs:** In Tamil Nadu, NCDs now account for 69% of premature deaths and 68% of years lost to disability, with 28.5% of the population overweight and 11.4% obese, reflecting a larger national trend.
- **Diabetes & Hypertension Crisis:** The state's 2020 STEPS survey reveals alarming levels of diabetes (17.6%) and hypertension (33.9%), with **poor glycemic control and management**, particularly among poorer communities.
- **Economic Impact:** The rising burden of NCDs, especially CKM-related conditions like coronary angioplasty and dialysis, strains Tamil Nadu's health budget, with nearly Rs 1,200 crore spent annually on insurance premiums under CMCHIS.
- **Challenges in Healthcare Management**
 - **Fragmented Care:** Current healthcare models treat diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and kidney disease separately, leading to fragmented care, multiple specialist visits, and inefficiencies.
 - **Integrated Care Model:** There is a push for integrated clinics where multidisciplinary teams of specialists manage CKM as a unified condition, optimizing care and reducing patient burden.
 - **Public Health Initiatives:** Tamil Nadu has implemented schemes like Muthu Lakshmi Reddy for pregnant women and school-based weight screenings, which aim to tackle CKM risk factors early in life.

The CKM syndrome as the price of modernity

Cardiovascular Kidney Metabolic (CKM) syndrome, an alarming, intricate interplay of lifestyle and the influence of globalization on health, is fast becoming a silent, global killer. It begins insidiously, often marked by a gradual rise in body weight and waist circumference that soon escalates into obesity, setting off a chain reaction in the body. Major organs such as the heart, the kidneys, liver and blood vessels bear the brunt, leaving those affected vulnerable to a startling risk – premature death.

In Tamil Nadu, a state known for its strong public health framework, the markers of well-being, i.e., life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality, and deaths from infectious diseases, fare better than the national average. Yet, even here, a troubling transition is underway. The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) report starkly illuminates the mounting burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which account for 69% of premature deaths and 68% of years lost to disability.

According to the 2020 Tamil Nadu STEPS survey the World Health Organization's step wise approach for NCD surveillance, 28.5% of participants were overweight. Further, 11.4% had obesity, 33.9% had hypertension and 17.6% had diabetes. This epidemic echoes the findings of the National Family Health Survey (2005-21), which places India's diabetes prevalence at 16.1% and obesity at a staggering 40.3%. Compounded by low awareness and poor glycemic control, especially among poorer communities, the result is an alarming public health crisis. In addition, hypertension – affecting 24% of men and 21% of women – remains inadequately managed, with less than one-fourth achieving target blood pressure control.

A new paradigm is essential. Without a shift in approach, the impact of the CKM syndrome on middle-aged individuals and on the economy at large will only deepen.

Health economics, the cost of CKM
Tamil Nadu's health expenditures tell a sobering story. Nearly ₹1,200 crore is spent annually on



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insurance premiums under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS), covering 14 crore families. Topping the list of claims are coronary angioplasty and dialysis, which are both stark outcomes of the CKM syndrome. Meanwhile, the private sector has seen insurance premiums soar, tracking the rise in NCD cases over the past decade. While the aim of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is also to reduce NCD deaths by one-third by 2030, the current trends of rising obesity, diabetes, and hypertension rates threaten not only those goals but also the health budget and the economy as a whole.

Need for integrated clinics

The American Heart Association recently laid emphasis on the importance of integrated care for CKM calling for a shift from segmented care to unified, simultaneous management of risk factors. Rather than isolating diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and kidney disease, the association argues that health professionals should view them as symptoms of a broader metabolic condition.

Today's management models miss key opportunities for optimal, holistic risk assessment. Patients with multiple affected organs may see separate specialists for each issue, leading to fragmented care, drug interactions, repeated visits, and, ultimately, a loss in wages and productivity. An integrated clinic could address these issues, with a multidisciplinary team of a diabetologist, cardiologist, nephrologist, dietitian and physiotherapist working together. Public health teaching hospitals could make this a reality, acting as centres for training medical students and expanding the model to secondary- and primary-care levels.

Tamil Nadu's health efforts begin early. For pregnant mothers, the State's Muthu Lakshmi Reddy scheme provides direct cash transfers and nutrition kits, a step toward addressing low birth weight (a known precursor to future diabetes, hypertension, and kidney disease). Could the inclusion of protein-rich foods such as two eggs a

day for mothers from the fourth month of pregnancy, further improve outcomes? For the next generation – preschool through secondary schoolchildren – regular weight and obesity screenings could identify high-risk individuals early.

Since the 1960s, rice, which is a high glycemic food, has been widely accessible through the Public Distribution System (PDS), transforming the nutrition landscape. But this staple, while sustaining the population, has also contributed to obesity. In response, partial replacement of rice in the PDS with millets is essential.

In addition, replacement of common salt with low sodium salt can be considered as a pilot project as there is enough evidence for reduction of hypertension with low sodium salt in clinical trials. But there must be caution in people with heart or kidney ailments and where common salt is preferred.

Globalisation and CKM

The lifestyle of today, which is marked by long work hours and night shifts, has been called "the gift of globalisation", for better or worse. As Alex Soojung Kim Pang writes in his book *Rest*, the global economy demands that we ignore our need for rest, idolising workaholicism and dismissing rest as a weakness. In reality, rest is essential for productivity and creativity. Long working hours and frequent night shifts lead to brain fatigue and reduced secretion of happy hormones, often counterbalanced by eating super palatable foods which are rich in salt, sugar and butter. Our physiology, however, tells a different story. Extended work hours disrupt hormonal levels, with cortisol (the "stress hormone") driving unhealthy carbohydrate and lipid metabolism. The result is obesity.

Regulation of work hours and shifts, many argue, is as essential a public health measure as any medical intervention. In the end, the goal is simple. Not only does an economy grow, but there is also a society that lives longer, healthier and happier. We must pause and ponder over this today, which is also World Diabetes Day (November 14).

- **Globalization and Lifestyle Impact**

- **Lifestyle Changes:** Globalization has fostered workaholicism, long hours, and unhealthy eating habits, contributing to CKM syndrome by disrupting hormone regulation and metabolism.
- **Role of Work Hours:** There is increasing recognition that long working hours and frequent night shifts exacerbate health risks, leading to poor metabolic health and increased obesity.
- **Health Policy Recommendations:** Experts argue for regulating work hours and improving lifestyle, including healthier food options like millets and low-sodium salt, as preventive measures to curb the CKM epidemic.

3. Huge Drop in African Elephants GS 3 (Environment)

- **Why in News:** A recent study on the population of **African elephants** has made headlines due to the alarming decline in their numbers over the past five decades. The study, described as the most comprehensive of its kind, sheds light on the factors contributing to this decline, including **illegal hunting (poaching)** and the loss of natural habitats due to agricultural expansion.
- **Key Findings of the Study**
 - **Savanna elephants** (the more common species) saw a **70% population decline** on average.
 - **Forest elephants** experienced an even steeper decline, with a **90% decrease** in their populations.
 - There was a 77% population decrease on average at the various surveyed sites, spanning both species.
 - **Responsible factor:**
 - **Poaching:** Poaching, primarily for ivory tusks, has had a particularly devastating effect on forest elephants. The ivory trade is driven mainly by demand in Asia, especially China.
 - **Habitat Loss:** The primary cause of habitat loss is agricultural expansion, which has significantly reduced the natural areas where elephants live.
- **African Elephant Species**
 - African elephants are the **largest land animals** on Earth, with males weighing up to **6,000 kilograms (13,200 lbs)** and reaching heights of **3-4 meters** at the shoulder.
 - **Two Species of African Elephants:**
 - **Savanna Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*):** These are the larger of the two species and are found in **savanna** and **forest ecosystems** across much of sub-Saharan Africa. They are more widely distributed and have a population that is more resilient to conservation efforts.
 - **Forest Elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*):** Smaller and with more rounded ears, forest elephants are found in **tropical forests** in central and West Africa. They are more endangered due to higher poaching pressures and habitat destruction.
 - Elephants are **highly social** animals, living in family groups led by a matriarch. They are known for their **complex communication** and **advanced problem-solving abilities**.
 - They have an excellent memory, which is essential for survival in their large territories and helps them remember locations of water sources and migration paths.
 - **IUCN Conservation Status:**
 - **African Forest Elephant:** Critically Endangered
 - **African Savanna Elephant:** Endangered
- **Elephants in India**
 - India harbors the **world's largest extant population** of the **endangered Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*)**.

Alarming rate of decrease in African elephant count

Reuters

African elephants, earth's largest land animals, are remarkable mammals that are very intelligent and highly social. They also are in peril. Fresh evidence of this comes in a study that documents alarming population declines at numerous sites across the African continent over about a half century.

Researchers unveiled on Monday what they called the most comprehensive assessment of the status of the two African elephant species – the savanna elephant and forest elephant – using data on population surveys conducted at 475 sites in 37 countries from 1964 through 2016.

Savannah elephant populations fell by about 70% on average at the surveyed sites and forest elephant populations dropped by about 90% on average at the surveyed sites, with poaching and habitat loss the main drivers. All told, there was 77% population decrease on average at the various surveyed sites spanning both species. Elephants vanished at some sites while their populations increased in other places thanks to conservation efforts.

"A lot of the lost populations won't come back, and many low-density populations face continued pressures. We likely will lose more populations going forward," said George Wittemyer, a Colorado State University professor of wildlife conservation who helped lead the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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The forest elephant population is estimated to be about a third that of savannah elephants. Poaching has affected forest elephants disproportionately and has ravaged populations of both species in northern and eastern Africa.

"We have lost a number of elephant populations across many countries, but the northern Sahel region of Africa – for example in Mali, Chad, and Nigeria – has been particularly hard hit. High pressure and limited protection have culminated in populations being extirpated," Wittemyer said. But in southern Africa, elephant populations rose at 42% of the surveyed sites. "We have seen real success in a number of places across Africa, but particularly in southern Africa, with strong growth in populations in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia. For populations showing positive trends, we have had active stewardship and management by the governments or outside groups that have taken on a management role," Wittemyer said.

The study did not track a continent-wide population tally because the surveys used different methods over different time frames to estimate local elephant population density. Instead, it assessed population trends at each of the surveyed sites. A population estimate by conservationists conducted separately from this study put the two species combined at between 415,000 and 540,000 elephants as of 2016, the last year of the study period. It remains the most recent comprehensive continent-wide estimate.

- The Asian elephant includes three subspecies:
 - Indian, or mainland (*E. maximus indicus*)
 - Sumatran (*E. maximus sumatranus*)
 - Sri Lankan (*E. maximus maximus*)
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered
- African elephants have much larger ears, which are used to dissipate body heat.
- Elephants are keystone species as well as the **Natural Heritage Animal of India**.
- India has the largest number of wild Asian Elephants. Karnataka has the highest elephant population in India.
- In India, **33 elephant reserves** have been established in 14 states that are major elephant habitats to promote conservation. These areas are under protection with the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Indian Forest Act, 1927** and other local State Acts.

4. Novo Nordisk Calls for FDA Action to Halt Compounded Versions of Semaglutide Drugs **GS 2 (Governance)**

• **Why in News:**

- Novo Nordisk, the Danish pharmaceutical giant behind the popular drugs Wegovy (for weight loss) and Ozempic (to treat type 2 diabetes in adults), has requested that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stops the compounding of semaglutide-based medications.
- The company argues that compounded versions, created to meet rising demand, may pose safety risks to patients.

• **Key Issues in Drug Compounding:**

- **Limited regulations:**
 - Under FDA guidelines, **licensed pharmacists can legally compound medications** to meet patient needs, particularly when branded versions are unavailable.
 - With Wegovy and Ozempic in high demand, compounding pharmacies have been formulating their own versions, **prompting Novo Nordisk's intervention**.
 - American pharmaceutical firm **Eli Lilly similarly sought to halt compounded versions** of its drugs Mounjaro and Zepbound, intended for diabetes and obesity treatment.
 - **The FDA has yet to issue a decision on either case.**
- **Purity risks:** Semaglutide's intricate structure is challenging to replicate accurately. Hence, the compounded versions may lack precision, potentially compromising purity and stability.
- **Risk of incorrect dosing:**
 - The FDA-approved semaglutide is delivered through a single-use pen injector, ensuring precise dosage and clear usage instructions.
 - Compounded drugs, however, are often dispensed in multi-dose vials or syringes, raising the risk of incorrect dosing.
 - Reports cite patients **accidentally overdosing**, resulting in severe side effects like nausea and vomiting.
- **Risking severe health issues:**
 - **Bioavailability** - the degree to which the drug reaches the bloodstream - is crucial for semaglutide.
 - Without proper absorption, compounded versions may fail to provide the intended treatment effects, risking severe health issues like **heart disease, nerve damage, and kidney complications**.
- **Contamination risks:**
 - Compounded semaglutide requires **sterile facilities and precise handling** to avoid contamination.
 - In recent years, the FDA has flagged sterility issues at compounding pharmacies, leading to significant recalls.

Why maker of 'magic' weight-loss drug semaglutide wants copies banned

RAISING CONCERNS BY REQUESTING THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) to stop the compounding of semaglutide-based medications, Novo Nordisk, the Danish pharmaceutical giant behind the popular drugs Wegovy (for weight loss) and Ozempic (to treat type 2 diabetes in adults), has requested that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stops the compounding of semaglutide-based medications. The company argues that compounded versions, created to meet rising demand, may pose safety risks to patients.

EXPLAINED HEALTH The FDA considers a drug compounded version of a branded drug to be a "new drug" and requires a new drug application (NDA) for its approval. Novo Nordisk has requested the FDA to approve its semaglutide-based drugs, Wegovy and Ozempic, as "new drugs" and to halt the compounding of semaglutide-based medications. The company argues that compounded versions, created to meet rising demand, may pose safety risks to patients.

GENERIC VS COMPOUNDED DRUGS Both are alternatives to brand-name medications, but they differ significantly in how they are produced and regulated. **MANUFACTURING** Generic drugs are mass-produced by pharmaceutical companies. They contain the same active ingredients as brand-name drugs but are usually less expensive. **COMPOUNDED DRUGS** are not mass-produced. They are created by compounding pharmacies, which mix ingredients to create a custom-made drug for a specific patient. They are often used when a patient has a unique medical condition or when a brand-name drug is unavailable.

REGULATION Generic drugs are regulated by the FDA and must meet strict quality standards. They are subject to rigorous testing and inspection. **COMPOUNDED DRUGS** are not regulated by the FDA. They are subject to less rigorous testing and inspection. This lack of regulation can lead to quality control issues and safety risks.

REASON FOR REQUEST Novo Nordisk has requested the FDA to approve its semaglutide-based drugs, Wegovy and Ozempic, as "new drugs" and to halt the compounding of semaglutide-based medications. The company argues that compounded versions, created to meet rising demand, may pose safety risks to patients.

- **Proposed Solution to Address Issues with Drug Compounding:**
 - **Adding Semaglutide to DDC list:**
 - Novo Nordisk petitioned the FDA to place semaglutide on the Demonstrable Difficulties for Compounding (DDC) list, which would **restrict its compounding when commercial options are available.**
 - The FDA assesses drugs for the DDC list based on **stability, bioavailability, dosage requirements, and sterility demands**, all factors Novo Nordisk highlights in its case.

5. The Green transition India needs **GS 3 (Environment)**

- **Why in News:** As COP29 negotiations unfold amidst global political uncertainties and regional conflicts, India faces the dual challenge of decarbonizing its economy while ensuring sustainable economic growth and attracting climate finance. The country must adopt seven critical shifts to build a green, resilient, and clean energy system that aligns with its growing power demands and emerging climate goals.

• **Key Shifts in India's Energy Transition**

- **Decentralized Energy Systems:** India needs to shift from centralized to decentralized energy systems by scaling up **distributed renewable energy (DRE) sources**. While rooftop solar potential is significant, affordability remains a barrier for lower-income groups, requiring market-driven interventions like community solar models.
- **Opex Model for Clean Energy:** A shift is required from **traditional capital expenditure (capex) models** to **operational expenditure (opex) models**. This would involve pay-as-you-go models for solar installations, energy efficiency services, and electric transport, reducing the financial burden on individual consumers.
- **Climate-Resilient Investments:** Investment in climate-resilient energy infrastructure should replace short-term financial risk considerations. As more than 80% of India's population now lives in climate-vulnerable districts, making energy systems resilient against climate shocks is the least risky long-term strategy.

• **Strategic Approaches for Economic Integration**

- **Global Clean Energy Supply Chains:** India should move beyond protectionist policies and focus on plugging into global clean energy supply chains. By adding value and collaborating on solar PV and green hydrogen, India can contribute to building a global rules-based energy architecture.
- **Integration of Decarbonisation and Digitalisation:** With India's rapid internet penetration, integrating decarbonisation with digital technologies, such as AI systems, smart appliances, and meters, can optimize energy flow and enhance system resilience. Smart meters and digitally managed grids can become key elements of future energy business models.
- **Circular Economy for Critical Minerals:** India must transition to a circular economy, particularly for critical minerals used in clean energy technologies. The management of solar waste and recovery of valuable minerals such as silicon and cadmium is crucial to both environmental sustainability and mineral security.

• **People-Centric Approach to the Energy Transition**

- **Financing End-Use Consumers:** Shifting the focus from financing large power developers to financing end-use consumers is vital. This includes supporting consumers who wish to buy electric vehicles, install solar panels, or adopt energy-efficient appliances.
- **Investment in Consumer-Centric Business Models:** Small-scale investments in individual consumers can create a market of substantial size. By developing financial portfolios for consumers, India can unlock a massive opportunity for clean energy adoption.

A green transition for India

It's about redefining relations between environment, energy and economy, keeping people at centre

ARUNABHA GHOSH

AS COP29 NEGOTIATIONS play out in the shadow of global tensions between the US and China, India's role in the global energy transition is becoming increasingly critical. The country's energy transition is not just about meeting its growing power demands, but also about ensuring that the transition is inclusive and sustainable. The challenge is to build a green, resilient, and clean energy system that aligns with its growing power demands and emerging climate goals.

India's energy transition is a complex task, requiring a shift from centralized to decentralized energy systems. The country's energy transition is not just about meeting its growing power demands, but also about ensuring that the transition is inclusive and sustainable. The challenge is to build a green, resilient, and clean energy system that aligns with its growing power demands and emerging climate goals.

- **Centrality of People in Policy Making:** The energy transition should prioritize people at its core, ensuring that policies benefit end-users and align with the needs of both rural and urban consumers for cleaner energy access and affordable energy solutions.

6. Booker Prize

Recent event of importance

- **Why in News:** British writer Samantha Harvey won the Booker Prize 2024 for fiction with *Orbital*, a short, wonder-filled novel set aboard the International Space Station.

- **About Booker Prize:**

- It is the world's leading literary award for a **single work of fiction**.
- Founded in the UK in 1969, the Booker Prize initially rewarded Commonwealth writers and now spans the globe: it is open to anyone regardless of origin.
- It **aims to promote the finest in fiction** by rewarding the best novel of the year written in
- **Eligibility:**
 - The Booker Prize awards any **novel originally written in English** and **published in the UK and Ireland** in the year of the prize, regardless of the nationality of their author
 - The novel must be an original work in English (not a translation).
 - It must be published by a registered UK or Irish imprint; self-published novels are not eligible.
- The winner **receives £50,000**, and each shortlisted author will be given £2,500.
- **The Booker Prize Foundation:** It is a registered charity established in 2002. Since its inauguration in 2005, it has been responsible for the award of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction and the Man Booker International Prize.

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British writer Harvey wins Booker Prize

Reuters
LONDON

Britain's Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for *Orbital*, a story about a single day aboard the International Space Station which she wrote during COVID-19 lockdowns.

The novel, Harvey's fifth, was the top selling book on the shortlist of six finalists and has sold more copies than the past three Booker Prize winners combined, as readers lapped up her depiction of earth's beauty as seen from space.

'Intensity of attention'
Judges of the prize praised her writing for the "intensity of attention to the pre-



Samantha Harvey

cious and precarious world".

Harvey said she wrote the novel while stuck at home during the pandemic watching footage of the earth in low orbit on her screen. She likened the experience of her six characters "trapped in a tin can" to that of lockdown.