

Current Affairs 18th February 2025 by Saurabh Pandey Sir

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

 Location: Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is in the Western Ghats, straddling the border between Kerala and Tamil Nadu in India.

 Biodiversity: The reserve is known for its rich biodiversity, housing various species of flora and fauna, including tigers, elephants, and numerous bird species.

 Area: It covers an area of approximately 643 square kilometers, making it one of the most significant protected areas in the region.

 Establishment: Parambikulam Tiger Reserve was established in 2010, although the area has been recognized for conservation since the 1970s.

Summary: Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a biodiverse protected area in the Western Ghats, known for its rich wildlife and eco-tourism opportunities

China's EAST Reactor: A Leap Towards Sustainable Nuclear Fusion

Introduction

On January 20, 2025, a remarkable milestone in nuclear fusion was achieved when Chinese scientists announced that their Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) successfully maintained a plasma at an astounding temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius for a staggering 1,066 seconds. This breakthrough not only marks a significant step in the quest for

sustainable energy but also highlights the importance of nuclear fusion as a potential solution to the world's energy crisis. 

Historical Context of Nuclear Fusion

Nuclear fusion, the process of combining two atomic nuclei to form a heavier nucleus, has long been

considered the holy grail of energy production. While the principles of nuclear fission were discovered

in 1938 by Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann, leading to the first sustainable fission reactors, the idea

of harnessing fusion energy has been tantalizing scientists since the early 20th century. Unlike fission,

which produces harmful radioactive waste, fusion promises to be a cleaner, safer, and virtually

limitless source of energy. This transformation in energy discussions underscores the urgency and necessity for innovative solutions in an ever-changing world.

The Tritium Quandary

Nuclear fusion's complexity is often epitomized by the "tritium problem." Tritium, an isotope of hydrogen, is crucial for fusion reactions but is scarce in nature. While deuterium can be easily extracted from seawater, generating tritium is a daunting challenge. Currently, most tritium is produced as a by-product in heavy-water fission reactors located in Canada, India, and South Korea. The quest for sustainable fusion energy hinges on overcoming these production hurdles while simultaneously ensuring that the reaction can be maintained efficiently.

Deuterium vs. Tritium:

Deuterium (one proton, one neutron)

Tritium (one proton, two neutrons)

Temperature Challenges in Fusion

Achieving the necessary temperatures for nuclear fusion is another formidable obstacle. For fusion to occur, nuclei must overcome the repulsive force between their like charges (protons). This requires heating the plasma to at least 100

million degrees Celsius. The strong nuclear force, responsible for binding protons and neutrons, only operates over minuscule distances (around 1 femtometer).

Thus, the extreme temperatures are vital to provide the kinetic energy needed for nuclei to collide and fuse.

Key Factors:

Strong nuclear force High-energy collisions
Magnetic Confinement: The Heart of EAST

Inside the EAST reactor, deuterium gas is heated to approximately 20 million degrees Celsius, creating a plasma state where charged particles are free to move. To keep this plasma contained, EAST employs a sophisticated magnetic confinement system. The reactor features both toroidal and poloidal magnetic fields generated by superconducting electromagnets, which trap and stabilize the plasma, preventing it from touching the reactor walls.

Mechanics of Confinement:

Toroidal magnetic fields encircle the reactor. Poloidal fields flow through its center, creating a stable environment for Fusion

Record-Breaking Achievements of EAST

EAST has consistently set new records in the realm of nuclear fusion. In 2023, it achieved the world's first steady-state high-confinement plasma for 403 seconds, and on January 20, 2025, it surpassed this record, sustaining plasma for an impressive 1,066 seconds. This achievement reflects the operational advancements made in the reactor and the increased thermal power supplied during the experiments.

Milestones:

2016: Sustained plasma at 50 million degrees Celsius for over 60 seconds.

2017: Extended plasma duration beyond 100 seconds.

2023: Achieved 403 seconds of steady-state high-confinement plasma.

2025: Broke the record with 1,066 seconds of plasma stability.

The Role of EAST in ITER and Global Fusion Efforts

EAST serves as a crucial testbed reactor for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), an ambitious international project involving six countries, including India and members of the European Union. As ITER faces scrutiny for delays and budget overruns, EAST's successes provide valuable insights and technologies that may aid in the development of sustainable nuclear fusion.

Alternative Fusion Approaches

While tokamaks like EAST represent a prominent avenue for fusion research, alternative methods are being explored as well. Stellarators, for instance, offer a more complex design that eliminates the need for poloidal magnetic fields. Additionally, inertial confinement fusion techniques leverage powerful laser beams to compress deuterium and tritium pellets, aiming to achieve fusion through different means.

Future Prospects and Challenges

The pressing need for clean energy sources makes advancements in nuclear fusion a critical focus for researchers worldwide. While EAST and other facilities continue to make strides, challenges such as tritium production and sustaining high temperatures over extended periods remain significant hurdles.

The future of nuclear fusion technology will rely on international collaboration and innovative solutions to overcome these obstacles.

Conclusion

EAST's remarkable achievements in nuclear fusion research not only keep the fire of magnetic fusion burning but also inspire hope for a future powered by clean, sustainable energy.

As the world looks to transition away from fossil fuels, the advancements made in fusion

technology could very well be the key to unlocking a brighter, more sustainable energy landscape for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the EAST reactor and its purpose?

The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) is a nuclear fusion reactor located in China. Its main purpose is to research plasma physics and nuclear fusion technology, aiming to develop sustainable and clean energy sources through controlled fusion reactions.

2. What are the main challenges in achieving nuclear fusion?

The primary challenges include:

Tritium Availability: Tritium is difficult to produce and is crucial for fusion reactions.

Extreme Temperatures: Maintaining temperatures above 100 million degrees Celsius is necessary for nuclei to fuse.

Plasma Stability: Keeping the hot plasma contained without it touching the reactor walls.

3. How does magnetic confinement work in the EAST reactor?

Magnetic confinement in the EAST reactor utilizes a combination of toroidal and poloidal magnetic fields created by superconducting electromagnets. These fields trap charged particles in the plasma, preventing them from drifting out and allowing for sustained fusion conditions.

4. What is the significance of the recent record set by EAST?

The recent record of sustaining plasma for 1,066 seconds is significant because it demonstrates advancements in fusion technology and the ability to maintain high temperatures and plasma

stability for extended periods, which is crucial for future fusion reactors.

5. How does EAST contribute to the ITER project?

EAST serves as a testbed reactor for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, providing valuable insights and validating technologies that will be used in ITER to achieve sustainable nuclear fusion.

6. What are the alternative approaches to nuclear fusion aside from tokamaks?

Alternative approaches to nuclear fusion include:

Stellarators: Devices with more complex geometries that do not require poloidal magnetic fields.

Inertial Confinement Fusion: Techniques that use powerful lasers to compress fusion fuel pellets.

7. Why is nuclear fusion considered a cleaner energy source than fission?

Nuclear fusion produces minimal radioactive waste compared to nuclear fission, which generates long-lived radioactive materials. Fusion reactions primarily yield helium and energy, making it a safer and more environmentally friendly alternative.

8. What future developments can we expect in nuclear fusion research?

Future developments may include improvements in plasma confinement techniques, advancements in tritium production methods, and the potential for operating fusion reactors that can produce more energy than they consume.

9. How does EAST's success impact global energy policies?

EAST's achievements can influence energy policies by highlighting the viability of nuclear fusion as a sustainable energy source, encouraging investment in fusion research, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

10. When is the ITER project expected to produce plasma?

The ITER project is anticipated to produce its first plasma in 2033, with the goal of demonstrating sustained nuclear fusion reactions that release more energy than is required to maintain the process.

Lighten the pollution burden of thermal power States

🌐 **India's Climate Commitments:** In August 2022, India updated its Nationally Determined

Contribution under the Paris Agreement, aiming for a 45% reduction in emissions intensity

by 2030 and 50% of electric power capacity from non-fossil sources.

⚡ **Thermal Power's Dominance:** Thermal power currently dominates India's electricity generation, accounting for a significant share of the total installed capacity, with private sector plants contributing the most.

🌳 **Carbon Emissions:** India generates approximately 20,794.36 kg of carbon emissions

from electricity generation, with thermal power being a major contributor.

🏠 **Coal Reserves:** India has 378.21 billion tonnes of coal reserves, with Odisha holding the largest share, and coal supplying around 59.12% of the total energy supply.

🔗 **Compensation Issues:** States producing thermal power face pollution burdens without compensation, while consuming states benefit from cleaner electricity without bearing the environmental costs.

🏠 **Electricity Trade Dynamics:** States like Gujarat and Maharashtra import significant amounts of electricity despite having lower generation capacities, while states like Chhattisgarh and Bihar are net exporters.

🏠 **Regulatory Gaps:** Current regulations do not allow electricity-producing states to levy taxes on generation, leading to a lack of financial compensation for pollution burdens.

📄 **Summary:** India is committed to reducing emissions and increasing renewable energy, but thermal power production creates significant pollution burdens for producing states without adequate compensation mechanisms.

Understanding DDoS Attacks: Threats, Impacts, and Mitigation Strategies

What is a DDoS Attack?

A DDoS attack, or Distributed Denial of Service attack, is a nefarious effort to disrupt the normal operations of a targeted server, service, or network. This is accomplished by inundating it with a torrent of internet traffic. Unlike a Denial of Service (DoS) attack, which typically emanates from a single source, a DDoS attack leverages a multitude of compromised systems, frequently infected with malware, creating a collective force known as a botnet.

Types of DDoS Attacks:

Volumetric Attacks: These floods the bandwidth of the target.

Protocol Attacks: Exploit weaknesses in network protocols.

Application-layer Attacks: Target specific applications and services.

The ramifications of such attacks can be severe, leading to significant service downtime, which not only disrupts operations but may also result in severe financial losses. Although DDoS attacks do

not directly siphon data, they can serve as diversions for more malicious activities, such as data breaches.

The Anatomy of a DDoS Attack

Understanding the mechanics of a DDoS attack is crucial for developing effective countermeasures. The orchestration of these attacks typically involves a network of compromised devices, or a botnet, that can be controlled remotely by an attacker.

Botnets Explained:

Definition: A collection of internet-connected devices that are infected with malware.

Purpose: Used to perform coordinated attacks against target systems.

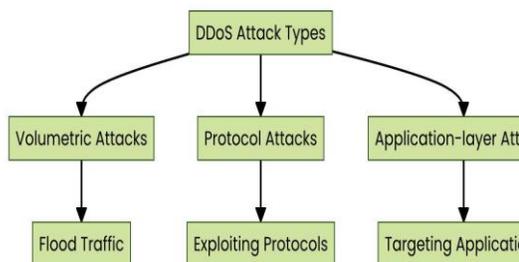
Recent findings indicate that the volume and intensity of DDoS attacks have surged, with reports highlighting a 56% year-over-year increase in occurrences.

Recent News Highlights

Record-breaking 5.6 Tbps DDoS Attack: [Cloudflare's report](#) indicates unprecedented attack volumes.

Political Motivations: A 55% increase in politically motivated DDoS attacks targeting critical infrastructure has been reported, showcasing the evolving landscape of cyber threats.

figure 1.1 DDoS Attack Types Overview:



Case Study: The Kaveri 2.0 Attack

The Kaveri 2.0 portal faced significant challenges during December 2024 and January 2025 due to a DDoS attack that overwhelmed its systems.

Incident Breakdown:

Fake accounts were generated to flood the database.

The attack involved 62 email accounts from 14 different IP addresses.

A peak of 6.2 lakh requests in just two hours crippled the portal's functionality.

This incident exemplifies how vulnerable systems can suffer devastating consequences from coordinated attacks, leading to reputational damage and potential loss of user trust.

Mitigation Strategies Against DDoS Attacks

Organizations can adopt several strategies to fortify themselves against DDoS attacks:

Traffic Filtering: Implement advanced filtering to differentiate between legitimate and malicious traffic.

Monitoring Tools: Utilize real-time monitoring to detect unusual traffic patterns and preemptively react.

Rate Limiting: Control the number of requests a user can make in a specified timeframe, effectively managing traffic load.

Collaboration: Work closely with cybersecurity agencies to investigate attacks and share information on mitigation strategies.

Moreover, understanding user behavior and educating them on phishing and social engineering risks can significantly enhance overall security posture.

Wrapping Up the Insights on DDoS Attacks

In today's digital landscape, understanding DDoS attacks is not just for cybersecurity professionals; it's crucial for anyone who interacts with online services. The increasing frequency and sophistication of these attacks highlight the need for robust protective measures. Organizations must remain vigilant and proactive to mitigate risks effectively.

Key Takeaways:

DDoS attacks can cripple services without directly stealing data.

The rise of botnets amplifies the threat landscape.

Mitigation strategies are essential in safeguarding digital infrastructure.

Collaboration with cybersecurity agencies enhances defensive capabilities.

As cyber threats continue to evolve, staying informed and equipped with the right knowledge can make all the difference in ensuring operational resilience.

What are the signs of a DDoS attack?

Unusual spikes in traffic, slow performance, and service outages are common indicators.

Can DDoS attacks be completely prevented? While they cannot be entirely prevented, the impact can be significantly reduced with proper defenses.

What should I do if my website is under a DDoS attack?

Immediately contact your hosting provider and implement your DDoS mitigation strategies.

Are small businesses at risk of DDoS attacks? Yes, small businesses can be targeted just as easily as larger organizations.

How can I protect my website from DDoS attacks?

Use a combination of traffic filtering, rate limiting, and monitoring tools to enhance security.

Is there any legal recourse for DDoS attacks? Yes, organizations can report attacks to law enforcement and seek legal advice

What role do ISPs play in mitigating DDoS attacks?

ISPs can help filter out malicious traffic before it reaches the target server.

Can DDoS attacks affect my business's reputation?

Absolutely. Frequent downtime can lead to loss of customer trust and

business credibility.

What technologies are available for DDoS protection?

Various solutions like Web Application Firewalls (WAFs), DDoS mitigation services, and cloud-based protection systems are available.

How often should I review my cybersecurity measures?

Regular reviews, at least quarterly or after significant changes in your network, are recommended.

Introduction to Constitutional Morality

The concept of constitutional morality has emerged as a pivotal notion in recent judicial pronouncements, particularly within the Indian context. It serves as a guiding principle, a benchmark for interpreting laws, and a test for adjudicating the validity of statutes. This multifaceted term is perceived by some as a protective mechanism against the capriciousness of public morality, while others view it as a potentially perilous instrument that could undermine democratic principles.

Historical Significance: It is imperative to trace the roots of this concept back to the reflections of British classicist George Grote. He articulated a notion of constitutional morality that emphasized a deep reverence for constitutional forms and processes, asserting that mere rules are insufficient for sustaining a vibrant democracy.

Judicial Insights: The Supreme Court's judgments, especially in cases like *Navtej Singh*

Johar vs. Union of India (2018) and *Joseph Shine vs. UOI* (2018), have revitalized interest

in this principle. Here, the court framed constitutional morality as an essential ideal of justice, guiding the application of law in contentious matters, including the rights of sexual

minorities and women's access to religious sites.

Judicial Interpretations and Implications

The recent judicial landscape in India has underscored the significance of constitutional morality in navigating complex societal issues. The Supreme Court, through its various

rulings, has illustrated how this principle can serve as a bedrock for ensuring justice and protecting individual rights.

Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India (2018): This landmark case marked a watershed moment in the decriminalization of homosexuality, emphasizing that constitutional morality transcends mere legislative provisions. The court held that the right to love and live with dignity is integral to personal liberty.

Joseph Shine vs. UOI (2018): Addressing the archaic law of adultery, the court reaffirmed that constitutional morality requires a reevaluation of outdated norms that infringe upon individual freedoms. The judgment marked a stride toward gender equality, showcasing the judiciary's role in upholding democratic values

The Role of Constitutional Morality in Contemporary Issues

Constitutional morality has emerged as a crucial framework for addressing pressing societal issues, reflecting the dynamic interplay between law, ethics, and public sentiment.

Rights of Sexual Minorities: The reaffirmation of LGBTQ+ rights by the courts illustrates how constitutional morality can protect marginalized communities against societal prejudice.

Women's Rights in Religious Spaces: The ongoing debates surrounding women's entry into temples highlight the tension between traditional practices and constitutional guarantees of equality. Here, the judiciary must navigate sensitive

cultural contexts while upholding the sanctity of constitutional rights.

National Security vs. Civil Liberties: The challenges posed by national security concerns often lead to a strain on civil liberties. Constitutional morality serves as a guiding principle in balancing these competing imperatives, ensuring that the state does not overreach in its quest for security.

Reflections on the Future of Constitutional Morality

As society evolves, so too must our understanding of constitutional morality. The ongoing debates surrounding this concept highlight the need for a nuanced and adaptive approach to governance that respects both tradition and progress.

Ongoing Challenges: The judiciary's role in mediating between competing interests is more critical than ever. There is a pressing need to ensure that constitutional morality does not become a tool for exclusion or oppression.

Potential for Growth: Emphasizing public reason, critique, and self-restraint can foster a civic culture that respects constitutional values, even amidst political dissent. The challenge lies in cultivating a commitment to constitutional morality that transcends partisan divides.

Vision for the Future: A mature constitutionalism that balances reverence and reform could pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable society. This vision aligns with Dr. Ambedkar's assertion that democracy requires an established and diffused commitment to constitutional ideals.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is constitutional morality?

Constitutional morality refers to the adherence to the principles and values enshrined in the constitution, promoting respect for democratic processes and individual rights.

How has the Supreme Court interpreted constitutional morality?

The Supreme Court has interpreted constitutional morality as a guiding principle for ensuring justice, particularly in landmark cases involving minority rights and gender equality.

What role does constitutional morality play in contemporary issues?

It serves as a framework for addressing complex societal issues, ensuring a balance between individual rights and public morality while navigating traditional practices.

What are the historical origins of constitutional morality?

The term was popularized by George Grote, who emphasized the need for a civic culture that respects constitutional forms and processes for sustaining democracy.

How does constitutional morality affect civil liberties?

It reinforces civil liberties by ensuring that laws and actions are scrutinized against constitutional ideals, protecting individuals from arbitrary state action.

Can constitutional morality be weaponized?

Yes, it can be misused to justify exclusionary practices or to undermine progressive reforms if not applied judiciously.

What is the difference between constitutional morality and constitutional patriotism?

Constitutional morality emphasizes procedural respect and critique, whereas constitutional patriotism focuses on allegiance to national values as a basis for solidarity.

How can individuals promote constitutional morality?

By engaging in civic discussions, respecting diverse opinions, and advocating for constitutional rights, individuals can contribute to a culture of constitutional morality.

What is Dr. Ambedkar's connection to constitutional morality?

Dr. Ambedkar highlighted the importance of constitutional morality in ensuring a vibrant democracy and believed it must be established and disseminated within society.

How does constitutional morality relate to social justice?

It underpins efforts to promote social justice by providing a framework for critiquing laws and practices that violate individual rights and freedoms.

Germany's Economic Slump: Causes and Consequences

Overview of Germany's Economic Situation

Significant economic downturn over the past five years. Historically, Germany was a leader in exports and industrial goods. Economic challenges linked to geopolitical events and internal policies.

Key Reasons for Economic Slump

Energy Crisis:

Cut off of natural gas from Russia due to the invasion of Ukraine. Reliance on cheap energy for industrial production has backfired. Shift from nuclear power without sufficient renewable energy infrastructure.

Inflation and Energy Costs:

Spike in gas and electricity prices, affecting energy-intensive industries. Transition to liquefied natural gas (LNG) from more expensive sources

Global Competition:

China's increased manufacturing capabilities leading to competition in key sectors. Export-oriented policies of China affecting German markets, particularly in automotive and solar panel industries.

Complacency and Underinvestment:

Delayed investments in infrastructure (e.g., rail lines, internet).

Government focus on balancing budgets instead of fostering innovation.

Labor Market Issues:

Difficulty in filling skilled positions across industries. High percentage of firms reporting unfilled vacancies, especially in larger companies.

Consequences of Economic Challenges

Reduced Exports: Significant drop in net exports, especially in automobiles.

Increased Costs: Higher production costs impacting competitiveness.

Economic Policy: Calls for reforms to reduce bureaucracy and streamline processes.

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