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## GS 2 : POLITY & GS-4 : BIO-ETHICS THE HINDU PAGE : 1

### SC upholds 'right to die' for man in vegetative state

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the right to die with dignity of 32-year-old Harish Rana, who has been in a persistent vegetative state for nearly 13 years, by allowing the withdrawal of clinically assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH).

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan delivered the judgment.

Mr. Rana had sustained severe head injuries and 100% quadriplegic disability after sustaining a fall

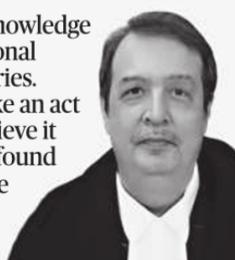
from the fourth floor of his paying guest accommodation in 2013.

"To Harish's family, we want to acknowledge the deep emotional weight this decision carries. This decision can feel like an act of surrender, but we believe it is, in truth, an act of profound compassion and courage. You are not giving up on your son. You are allowing him to leave with dignity. It reflects the depth of your selfless love and devotion towards him," Justice Pardiwala read from his 286-page opinion.

This was the first time

We want to acknowledge the deep emotional weight this decision carries. This decision can feel like an act of surrender, but we believe it is, in truth, an act of profound compassion and courage

J.B. PARDIWALA  
Supreme Court judge



the Supreme Court had implemented its own 2018 Constitution Bench guidelines for what it had then called 'passive euthanasia'.

Justice Viswanathan joined his lead colleague on the Bench in a separate and concurrent opinion

that the family had left no stone unturned to care for their son and brother. "It is only when the matter reached a point of no return, that to relieve Harish from what he is undergoing, they have resorted to this legal course of action,"

he said. The court directed AIIMS Delhi to shift Mr. Rana from his residence to their palliative care centre.

The process of withdrawal of CANH must be part of a well-structured, tailored, robust and articulated palliative care plan for a PVS patient. Firmly appending the withdrawal of life support to palliative care, the court said the patient must be looked after in a sensitive manner with concerns for his or her dignity given foremost importance.

**DISTINCTION IN EUTHANASIA**  
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## Judge distinguishes between active and passive euthanasia

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The distinction between "active" and "passive" euthanasia goes beyond the simplistic binary of "act" versus "omission", Supreme Court judge Justice J.B. Pardiwala said on Wednesday.

"The true distinction between active and passive euthanasia lies not merely in the nature of the conduct, i.e., acts or omissions, but also in the source of the harm that leads to death," Justice Pardiwala said in a judgment.

The judge characterised active euthanasia as causing death by introducing a new, external agency of harm, such as a lethal injection.

"In such cases, death is not the result of the patient's underlying illness, but of an intervention that sets a new chain of events in motion. It is for this reason that active euthanasia



By removing life support, the physician is not creating a new risk of death, the judge said. AP

is understood as an intervention that disrupts the natural path towards death," Justice Pardiwala observed in the judgment.

### Underlying condition

Conversely, he explained that passive euthanasia should be understood as allowing death to occur. By withdrawing or withholding life support, the physician is not creating a new risk of death. Rather, the doctors are choosing to al-

low the underlying fatal condition to take its natural course by no longer continuing the medical interventions that were artificially prolonging life.

"The undeniable fact is that the patient's affliction, i.e., the underlying medical condition, is not caused by any act or omission of the doctor. Rather, the underlying condition is due to factors independent of the doctor or their actions," Justice Pardiwala said. However, withdrawing treatment should not violate the duty of care a doctor owes a patient in all circumstances. "The surrendering of any medical effort must not be at loggerheads with the duty of care which joists all medical action," Justice Pardiwala emphasised.

The judgment said active euthanasia involved a "positive, overt act" designed to curtail the natural lifespan and extinguish life.

# GS 3 : AGRICULTURE & GS 2: VULNERABLE SECTIONS

THE HINDU PAGE: 8

## Holding up half the sky on India's farms

**A**s we celebrated Women's Day on March 8 this year, we also celebrated the International Year of the Woman Farmer (announced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization). It was an opportunity to recognise the contribution of working women to India's agricultural economy. As official statistics do not give a complete picture of the scale of participation, type of work, and economic contribution of women, it is field data that we must turn to. It tells us that while women's labour is central to crop and livestock production, the remuneration to women workers is extremely low and stagnating.

### Counting women workers

First and foremost, we lack accurate information on how many women are actually engaged in agriculture, livestock rearing, fisheries and other allied activities. Large-scale labour force surveys (such as the Periodic Labour Force Surveys) are unable to capture women workers accurately because in a largely informal agrarian economy, women's work is often home- or farm-based, unpaid, seasonal, intermittent (even over the course of a single day), and intermingled with care work. For example, a woman respondent may not report herself as a "worker" if her day involves multiple tasks of child care interspersed with animal rearing.

What official labour force surveys tell us is that women's work participation in rural India has risen sharply in recent years. Among rural girls and women aged 15 years and above, 46.5% were in the workforce in 2023-24 as compared to 35% in 2011-12. This still remains lower than the rest of the world: according to the International Labour

Office, women's work participation was in the range 57%-63% in a majority of countries.

Hidden behind this statistic that shows a rise in rural women workers lies a less happy reality, namely, that the rise is largely in the count of 'self-employed' women, reflecting a lack of wage employment opportunities. In 2011-12, 60% of rural women workers were classified as self-employed; the proportion rose to 73 per cent in 2023-24. In the same period, the share of women employed as regular and casual wage workers fell. Further, the share of self-employed women working in the agricultural sector rose from 48% to 62%, and, of the total number of self-employed workers in agriculture, women comprised almost one-half (47.2% in 2023-24).

Put together, in 2023-24, there were at least 117.6 million women working in agriculture (of whom 21.7 million were hired workers, 95.1 million were self-employed and 0.8 million were regular workers). The estimated male workforce in agriculture was 127.5 million.

The first sector we consider is crop production. Official statistics cannot tell us the



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share of women workers in total labour deployed in crop cultivation as gender-disaggregated data on family labour are not collected. We provide an answer with data from village-level surveys conducted by the PARI project of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies ([www.fas.org.in/pari](http://www.fas.org.in/pari)). From this unique database of 27 villages, we draw on two villages, Palakurichi and Venmani, from Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu (studied in 2019) and two villages (Harveli and Mahatwar) from western and eastern Uttar Pradesh (studied in 2023).

As a socio-economic classification of households in these villages is available, we focus on the peasantry and manual worker households, who constitute the majority. We have excluded landlord or capitalist farmer households, and those engaged in business or salaried employment.

In the four selected villages, women accounted for about one-third of family labour (except the village in western Uttar Pradesh where it was lower). When family and hired labour are combined, women accounted for the major share in Palakurichi (61%) and Venmani (57%) in Tamil Nadu, and about 41% in Mahatwar village of eastern Uttar Pradesh. These differences arose on account of several factors including crop choice and farming systems, and the socio-economic composition of households. Nevertheless, the key message is that crop cultivation relies heavily on women's labour.

The second sector is livestock rearing, one of the fastest growing sectors within agriculture, and where women constitute the primary work force. The PARI village studies show that in family-based livestock rearing (particularly milch cattle and poultry), most tasks are performed by

women. If a household owned cattle, inevitably a woman participated in livestock labour, spending about 2 hours for every animal reared. At last count, 40 million rural households owned milch animals (All India Debt and Investment Survey, 2018-19), suggesting that around 40 million women were engaged in animal rearing.

The third sector is wage labour. As mechanisation has progressed and aggregate demand for labour in agriculture has declined, so has the demand for women's labour. Our estimates show that the share of women workers in total casual labour employment in crop production ranged from 16% to 71% across the four villages, but was more than one-third in all but the western U.P. village (where labour hiring is more complex given the scale of sugarcane cultivation). And, these women hired workers belonged not only to manual labour households but also to the lower rungs of the peasantry.

### Earnings and wages

For a workforce of more than 100 million, the question of remuneration is clearly important.

What is the level of explicit or implicit earnings obtained by a woman worker in agriculture today?

For wage workers, the prevailing wage rate is observable. At today's prices, a woman worker in agriculture earned less than ₹300 a day in all four villages. The gender gap in wages was higher in those regions with overall higher wage levels. Women's wages (₹290) were less than 50% of male wages in the two villages of Tamil Nadu; in the two villages of Uttar Pradesh, women's wages were lower (₹242-₹276) but so were men's wages and the gender gap was narrower.

Official statistics reveal a similar story. In November 2025, according to the Labour Bureau, the average all-India daily wage for agricultural work (sowing/transplanting/weeding) for a woman was ₹384. There were, of course, variations across States, with women workers in Kerala receiving the highest daily wage (₹646). Furthermore, data show that wages corrected for inflation have barely risen over the last decade.

There are no official data on women's earnings in livestock earnings, and we estimated the implicit daily earning, based on income generated from animals over the year (based on production of milk, dung) and total hours of work. In the two U.P. villages, where milch animals were widely held, the implicit daily earning was around ₹100. In short, women earned only two-fifths of the prevailing agricultural wage rate for their labour in cattle rearing.

Turning to crop production, it is difficult to estimate earnings per worker, as many members of a family may contribute to production. Suffice to note that in all four study villages, the return from crop production was low, averaging less

than ₹16,000 a year in the eastern U.P. village and less than ₹24,000 in Palakurichi, the Tamil Nadu village. Even if half the income was apportioned to women, their incomes would not be high.

### The picture so far

It is clear that women now constitute about one-half of the agricultural workforce in India (the actual number is likely to be higher for the reasons mentioned above). The majority of rural women were self-employed workers, but only 10% of rural women owned land, the primary asset for a cultivator. Turning to agricultural workers, women workers now (21.7 million) exceed the number of male workers (19.7 million), a first-time occurrence in post-Independence India, but wage rates for women are low in absolute terms, with a few exceptions, and reveal a large gender wage gap.

Women workers hold up half the sky in rural India. The Indian state has failed to correctly record the number of women workers, and to ensure that they receive decent wages and all rights as workers.

Women sustain India's farming economy but remain underpaid and undercounted

## GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GS-1: GEOLOGY THE HINDU PAGE: 8

### Policy missteps

India has allowed panic over fuel availability to spread

The events unfolding in West Asia have shone a spotlight not only on India's energy security, but also on its policy preparedness and communication strategy in times of crisis. With India importing close to 90% of its oil needs, it is natural that any disruption to supply chains would hit it hard. The Strait of Hormuz is particularly vital in the supply chain. To the government's credit, it has been gradually trying to reduce India's oil import dependence. The push for ethanol and biofuels is a step in this direction. Smoothing their adoption should continue to be a policy priority in the near term. That said, India's dependence on imported oil remains vast and growing, with the economy expanding by 6%-8% every year. Therefore, measures such as ethanol or biofuel-blending are only likely to be of marginal strategic significance. The policies on importing oil need to become more long-term oriented and robust in the face of external pressure. The crisis in West Asia has shown India just how important supplies from Russia are, at a time when New Delhi had been cutting Russian oil imports due to American pressure. In the past, the government had given in to U.S. pressure over Iranian and Venezuelan oil. The U.S. is now encouraging India to import Russian oil again to steady global markets. The U.S.'s 50% tariffs were hard to bear, but India knew that the U.S. Supreme Court was deliberating on the issue, and, so, could have waited a month for its order. As things stand, India may no longer receive a discount for Russian oil, it has squandered Moscow's trust, respect from the U.S. is diminishing, and a trade deal with it remains distant.

Government officials have made anonymous statements saying that fuel prices will not be hiked in response to higher oil prices. This is as much a political necessity as a moral one. After all, fuel prices were not cut over the last two and a half years even when oil prices were comfortably low. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), providing LPG connections to households, has also laid bare how policy does not anticipate crises. Households have benefited from the PMUY, but the resultant increase in LPG demand – without a commensurate increase in stable supplies and reserves – has meant that restaurants and hotels are now suffering amid shortages. Finally, the policy of the government to so far communicate only through off-record briefings and occasional tweets has meant panic over fuel availability has spread faster than warranted. Tuesday's inter-ministerial press conference came days late and no questions were taken. Clear, accountable communication was needed, yet missing. The government's crisis communication needs more work.

### A seismic decision

India needs a holistic, implementable earthquake zoning framework

The Centre's rollback of the revision to India's earthquake zoning by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), follows a major challenge to the methodology used, which some engineers believe are out of sync with site-based evaluations. Yet, the reversal is driven largely by the massive cost and execution implications, as the decision impacts urban planning, disaster preparedness and climate resilience. The current earthquake zoning exercise is an opportunity to disaster- and climate-proof cityscapes, power infrastructure, dams, highways, and homes and offices as India undertakes an urban infrastructure expansion. Getting the zoning framework right has, arguably, never been more important.

At the heart of the debate lies the scientific approximation of possible earthquakes and their intensities, *vis-à-vis* the preparedness of the built environment to withstand them. Globally, most advanced economies and seismically active regions now use Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA), a dynamic framework that models earthquake risk through probability-based simulations of ground motion. Until now, India has primarily used a simpler fixed zoning model. The BIS's attempt to move toward this globally accepted framework is, therefore, directionally correct. However, some structural engineers and policymakers argue that the revisions, which were notified in November 2025 and withdrawn on March 3, were too stringent. The proposed framework introduced an entirely new top-risk category, Zone VI, covering most of Kashmir, parts of the Himalayan belt, Kutch in Gujarat and the north-east. Urban planners worry that such zoning could stall developmental and infrastructure activity in already economically fragile regions, and potentially push more housing into the informal sector – which already accounts for nearly 80% of India's homes. Estimates suggest that a one-zone increase could raise costs by around 20%, and two zones by nearly one-third. For major infrastructure such as metro rail systems, dams and power stations, the cost implication could be significantly higher. Pushback to the BIS revisions has come from both the private sector and within government, including the Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Home Affairs, the Central Water Commission and the National Dam Safety Authority. Another layer in this debate is climate. The construction sector in India is among its largest dispersed sources of carbon emissions. While a revision in the earthquake zoning framework is necessary, it requires wider consultation across ministries, regulators and industry stakeholders. Only a holistic and implementable framework can strengthen disaster resilience and address climate mitigation, affordability and execution challenges.

## GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE: 12

# Era of gentle trade is over. Global village is being replaced by law of jungle



**THAROORTHINK**  
BY SHASHI THAROOR

FOR THREE decades, the ghost of the French political philosopher Montesquieu haunted the halls of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. The Enlightenment philosopher's famous dictum of *doux commerce* — the idea that trade “polishes and softens” the manners of men — was the silent engine of the era of globalisation. The logic was as elegant as it was optimistic: If we weave a web of mutual dependency, the cost of conflict becomes too high to pay. We would trade our way to a permanent, civilised peace. It was a beautiful, seductive delusion — the belief that the accountant's ledger could finally replace the soldier's bayonet.

But today, looking at the flurry of Trumpeted tariffs, export controls, and “Buy National” mandates, it is clear that the era of “gentle trade” has expired. States are more economically and technologically interconnected than at any point in history. Yet the very ties that bind them are increasingly perceived as sources of vulnerability rather than stability. We have reached a state of maximal interdependence coupled with minimal trust. The interdependence spawned by trade is now seen as a form of geoeconomic vulnerability,

ising force. This tension between reliance and suspicion shapes the contours of global geopolitics and geoeconomics, producing a world order that is simultaneously integrated and fragmented. In the place of the globalised world, a more primal, dog-eat-dog protectionism has emerged. The marketplace is no longer a salon for integrating the world; it has become the front line of a zero-sum conflict. We are witnessing the “de-civilising” of the global economy, where the handshake has been replaced by the chokehold.

The promise of *doux commerce* was that economic interest would eventually swallow geopolitical ambition. During the era of globalisation, we were all persuaded to believe that if Russia was piped into European energy grids and China was integrated into American supply chains, these nations would become “responsible stakeholders” in a peaceful global order, and that if India sold gems and jewellery to New York while importing Harley-Davidsons from Detroit, both countries would prosper. We fell into the trap of the classic Prisoner's Dilemma, assuming everyone was playing a long-term game of “tit-for-tat” cooperation. We thought that by being “nice” (opening our markets, inviting investment and integrating into global supply chains), we would invite reciprocal niceness and enhance our attractiveness as a “strategic partner”. Instead, we discovered that the “rationality” of a trading partner is often secondary to the irrationality of a president's prejudices or the assertion of national pride. Interdependence didn't just create peace; it created vul-

mutual friendship came to realise that they had simply handed their rivals the keys to their own front doors.

In the era of globalisation, the golden rule was efficiency. Companies chased the lowest cost, assuming the sea lanes would always be open and the rules would always be followed. Now, that golden rule has been replaced by the “Armour-Plated Rule”. The realisation that a single geopolitical tremor — a pandemic or a sudden invasion — can collapse a supply chain has turned trade into a defensive crouch. The West is moving from “offshoring” to “friend-shoring” and “near-shoring”. Countries no longer care if a partner is the most efficient or most cost-effective; we care if they are a “friend”. WTO multilateralism has been replaced by a flurry of bilateral trade agreements. This is the death of the universal marketplace and the birth of a fragmented one. The cost of this new paranoia will be paid by every consumer at the checkout counter.

The “gentleness” of commerce was predicated on the idea that trade happens in a neutral space, a world of benign autonomous economic actors. Poor Montesquieu! Today, commerce is weaponised. When semiconductors are used as diplomatic leverage and critical minerals are withheld to settle political scores or even the scales in a tariff battle, the softening effect that Montesquieu praised can no longer be found. Tariffs have returned as tactical missiles intended to degrade the capabilities of rivals. We have moved from a world where we traded to get rich together, to a world where we trade to ensure our neighbour

avourable trade balance. Trade is no longer an engine of growth; it is a tool of attrition, designed to starve the other even if it means going hungry ourselves.

There is an evident tragedy in this shift. While protectionism may offer a temporary sense of security, it abandons the civilising hope of the 18th century. The original theory of *doux commerce* wasn't just about money; it was about tolerance and mutual understanding emerging from mutual benefit. It was about the merchant who, in the pursuit of a sale, learns not just to tolerate but to accept the religion, language, and culture of the buyer. As we raise our drawbridges and retreat into rival trading blocs, we lose that bridge of communication. When we stop trading with countries we now see as “enemies”, we lose the last remaining incentive to understand them. We are trading the gentle peace of the market for the brutal security of the fortress. And it could get worse. History warns us that when goods stop crossing borders, armies eventually might.

The era of globalisation may have been naive in its optimism, but the era that replaces it looks increasingly like a world where the dogs are finally off the leash. We are dismantling the global village and replacing it with the law of the jungle, where might is right and suspicion reigns amid widespread fear. We are moving from Montesquieu to Hobbes: A world that is a collection of armed camps, watching each other through the sights of an economic rifle, with their drawbridges up. *Doux commerce* is yielding to a harsh dystopia.

The writer is Member of Parliament for Thiruvananthapuram, Lok Sabha, and

The realisation that a single geopolitical tremor — a pandemic or a sudden invasion — can collapse a supply chain has turned trade

## GS 3: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 13



BHARATH REDDY AND  
SHOBHANKITA REDDY

ANTHROPIC AND the Department of War (DoW) are locked in a standoff over how far the military should be allowed to go with frontier AI. At the centre of this clash are two red lines that Anthropic insists on for its models: No mass domestic surveillance and no fully autonomous weapons. In response, the DoW has designated the company as a "supply chain risk", a label previously reserved for US adversaries, and never before applied to an American company.

The US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth stated on X that "no contractor, supplier, or

partner that does business with the United States military may conduct any commercial activity with Anthropic". As legally untenable as that sounds, it is an existential risk for Anthropic if it is cut off from being offered by major cloud service providers. While the company could challenge this designation in court, a negotiated settlement that allows the DoW to use the technology for "all lawful purposes", in line with what it has been advocating, is likely.

This episode has established a precedent. The Trump administration is willing to repurpose tools designed for foreign adversaries for use against domestic companies. In doing so, it is trying to establish that private companies that spearhead general-purpose technologies with vast civilian applications have obligations to the state beyond

their terms of service when the technology is "spun on" for military use.

Second, it is only a matter of time before Anthropic falls in line. Amid the clash with the DoW, the company's rival, OpenAI, has been quick to accept a permissive contract for military-use cases. This is an undesirable outcome for Anthropic.

Third, the irony here is hard to miss. An-

In its clash with Hegseth, it is only a matter of time before Anthropic falls in line. The company's rival, OpenAI, has been quick to accept a permissive contract for military-use cases

thropic and other frontier AI companies spent years building the case that the technology is so powerful that it compares to nuclear weapons and requires non-proliferation controls. Now the US government is using that very logic to argue that such a powerful technology cannot be left to a private company's discretion.

Finally, despite the company's safety guardrails, there are reports that Claude, its family of language models, was used in US operations in Venezuela and Iran. While generative AI is described as a "country of geniuses in a data centre" that may surpass human intelligence within a year or two, this suggests that this technology is being used to make lethal decisions in military operations. However, the most likely use cases for generative AI in military oper-

ations today would be to augment text-, code-, analysis-, and simulation-heavy work, not serving as an autonomous entity making kill decisions.

Given that the current state of military AI technologies may be popularly misunderstood, both Anthropic's red lines and the Pentagon's heavy-handedness seem somewhat performative. Anthropic has positioned itself as a responsible AI lab, and standing up to the DoW appears to be an effort to stay true to its brand. However, the real fight does not seem to be about present use cases as much as who gets to set the terms for the future.

*The writers are researchers in technology geopolitics with the Lakshashila Institution, Bengaluru. Views are personal*

## GS 3: DISASTER MANAGEMENT INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 16

### • WAR IN WEST ASIA

# How airstrikes triggered black rain in Tehran

Abhishek Chakraborty  
New Delhi, March 11

WHEN TEHRAN residents stepped outside into the rain on Sunday morning, they were not greeted by the usual grey drizzle, but by oily, soot-laden droplets coating cars, clothes, and skin. On the night of March 7, Israeli strikes hit four oil storage facilities and an oil production transfer centre in Tehran and the province of Alborz, igniting large fires that burned for hours. The targets included the Aghdasieh oil warehouse in northeast Tehran, the Shahrani oil depot, and the Tehran refinery in the south. This "black rain", dozens of miles away from the disaster site, has proven to be one of the war's most alarming consequences.

#### How did the black rain form?

The explosions reportedly released significant quantities of toxic hydrocarbon compounds, sulfur, and nitrogen oxides into the air. As rain moved through the pollutant-saturated skies over the city, it absorbed these chemicals and fell back down as oily, blackened precipitation.

Scientists explained that the black rain resulted from a weather pattern bringing rain into the area, which combined with particles already suspended in the atmosphere.

#### TOXIC EFFECT

- The US-Israel strikes on Iran caused a massive release of toxic hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen compounds into the air.
- Inhaling or touching the smoke or particles could cause headaches, skin irritation and difficulty in breathing.
- The rain could also cause serious lung damage and chemical burns to the skin.

#### What are the health risks from the black rain?

On Tuesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that black and acidic rain falling over Tehran poses a real danger to the population, primarily to respiratory health. It backed Iran's advisory urging people to remain indoors.

According to WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier, the strikes caused a massive release of toxic hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen compounds into the air. Scientists said inhaling or touching the smoke or particles could cause headaches, skin and eye irritation, and difficulty breathing — and that longer-term exposure to some compounds increases cancer risk.

The Iranian Red Crescent warned that the rain could cause serious lung damage and chemical burns to the skin.

Petroleum mixtures contain thousands of hydrocarbons, including benzene, which are extremely toxic. The potential for severe long-term consequences is very real.

Tehran was already vulnerable before the first strike landed. Given the city's location, surrounded by mountains, as well as its dense urban layout, air does not circulate as it should, and pollutants remain in the air, pushed downward and inward.

## Black rain and the curse of 'forever chemicals'

The black rain crisis may outlast the fires. Scientists warned that forever chemicals — likely present in flame retardants built into the facilities — could contaminate groundwater and become airborne, ending up back in the rain. Acid rain, depending on concentration, could also accelerate corrosion of buildings already weakened by Tehran's chronic air quality problems. In its latest report, the Conflict and Environment Observatory tracked over 232 incidents with environmental risk since the conflict began. It warned of contamination of vegetation that could expose humans and animals to toxic compounds through the food chain.