

Karnataka Congress Launches 'Chalo Delhi' Protest Against 'Financial Injustice' By Modi Government

Why In The News?

- The Congress Government In Karnataka, Led By **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah**, On Wednesday Launched The "Chalo Delhi" Protest In The National Capital's Jantar Mantar Area, Opposing The Centre's "**Financial Injustice**" Towards The Southern State.
- **Karnataka Has Been At Loggerheads With The BJP** Led Union Government Over Devolution Of Tax Funds, Non-receipt Of Pending Funds To Implement Drought Relief Measures And The Centre Denying Permission For Irrigation And Potable Water-related Projects In The State, Among Other Matters.



What Do We Know?

- Siddaramaiah And Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Along With Ministers And Congress MLAs, Participated In The Protest. State Minister Satish Jarkiholi On Wednesday Alleged That The **Centre Owes The Karnataka Government More Than Rs 1 Lakh Crore.**

- Siddaramaiah Said During The Protest. “This Year Karnataka Is Contributing More Than Rs 4.3 Lakh Crores As Tax... **If We Collect Rs 100 As Tax And Give It To The Government Of India, We Are Only Getting Rs 12 To 13 Back, That Is Our Share.**”

Tussle During The Budget

- During The Budget Session Of Parliament, Congress’ Lok Sabha Leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Cited Karnataka’s Example While Questioning The Union Government **Why Southern India States Ruled By Opposition Parties Were Being Deprived Of Their Dues By The Centre.**
- In Response, FM Nirmala Sitharaman Said That Political Interests Do Not Come In The Way Of The States Receiving Funds From The Centre. “This Apprehension That Some States Are Being Discriminated Against Is A **Politically Vitiating Narrative,**” She Said.
- Sitharaman Also Suggested That The Congress Government In Karnataka Was **Incurring Expenses That Its Own Budget Could Not Sustain.**
- The Union Finance Minister’s Remarks Followed That Of **Congress MP DK Suresh**, Who Had Criticised The Interim Budget Presented On February 1, Saying That **Southern States Will Be Forced To Demand A Separate Country** If The Centre Does Not Provide Them Their Rightful Share Of Taxes.

