Salman Rushdie Attack

What is the issue?

British Indian author Salman Rushdie was attacked on stage by a man as he was about to give a lecture in western New York.

Who is Salman Rushdie?

- Salman Rushdie is an Indian-born writer whose novels examine historical and philosophical issues by means of surreal characters, brooding humour, and an effusive and melodramatic prose style.
- The British-American citizen who was born to non-practising Muslims and is an atheist himself has become a vocal advocate for freedom of expression.
- **Famous novels**- Grimus, Midnight's Children, Shame, The Satanic Verses, Quichotte, Languages of Truth: Essays 2003–2020.
- Rushdie received the **Booker Prize** in 1981 for **Midnight's Children** which subsequently won the Booker of Bookers (1993) and the Best of the Booker (2008).
- Mr. Rushdie was knighted in 2007 by the Queen.
- His next novel, **Victory City**, is due to be published in February 2023.

What is the issue with his book "The Satanic Verses"?

- *The Satanic Verses* depict the Prophet Muhammad and the Quran in a manner that drew criticism from Muslim community leaders who denounced the novel as blasphemous.
- Public demonstrations against the book spread to Pakistan in 1989.
- The spiritual leader of revolutionary Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, publicly condemned the book and issued a fatwa (legal opinion) against Rushdie.
- A bounty was offered to anyone who would execute him.
- He went into hiding for nine years.
- In 1998, the Iranian government announced that it would no longer seek to enforce its fatwa against Rushdie.
- The Satanic Verses was banned first in India.

What about the recent attack?

- **Recent attack**- A man ran up onto the stage and attacked Mr Rushdie.
- Police detained a suspect named as Hadi Matar whose social media accounts are reportedly filled with pro-Khomeini and pro-Iran content.
- No motive or charges have yet been confirmed by police.
- **Role of Iran**- Iran has denied any role but the pro-state media in Iran applauded the

suspect as courageous and duty-conscious man.

- Iran may not have a direct role in the attack but as the fatwa issued by the leader of its revolution has hunted down this man.
- Iran has the moral responsibility, at least now when he is recovering from serious wounds, to revoke the fatwa and unequivocally condemn the attack.

References

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