



DAILY PT POINTERS

4th October, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: Polity and Governance (Page 4)

Himachal launches unique scheme for care of vulnerable sections of society

The Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana aims to provide comprehensive aid to orphans, disabled children, destitute women, and elderly individuals in the State

October 03, 2023 10:51 pm | Updated 10:51 pm IST - CHANDIGARH

THE HINDU BUREAU

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- The Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana aims to provide comprehensive aid to orphans, disabled children, destitute women, and elderly individuals in the State.
- Under the scheme, approximately 2,700 newly identified orphans living with relatives will also get monthly financial assistance of ₹4,000 until the age of 27 years.
- The scheme also incorporates a 15-day educational tour annually for the orphan children, and their stay in three-star hotels. Besides, the air travel and all other expenses will be borne by the government

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : IR (Page 10)

The shutdown of the Afghan embassy

Why has the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan announced its closure? Are the consulates of Afghanistan also shutting down? What is the current state of the relationship between India and Taliban-ruled Afghanistan?



- The Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi has announced its decision to cease operations from October 1, 2023.
 - In accordance with **Article 45 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)**, all property and facilities of the Embassy will be transferred to the custodial authority of the host country.

Present Status of Relations

- Despite the closure of the embassy , India and Afghanistan are continuing engagement with each other.
 - India has been maintaining a “technical team” in Kabul where the staff provides visas to Afghan traders and travellers to India. There are two weekly flights that carry Afghan citizens and items to India. India uses the flights while sending humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. That apart, some Indian goods are also entering Afghanistan through other countries like Iran and the UAE. However, these are indicative of the informal nature of the relationship as formal diplomatic ties are unable to take off, because India refuses to recognise Taliban citing human rights abuses by the regime.

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The Hindu : IR (Page 10)

How has Nagorno-Karabakh standoff ended?

What is the history of the conflict over the region between Armenia and Azerbaijan? Why did hundreds of local Armenians flee the area? What has been Turkey's role in the region?

PRIYALI PRAKASH

THE GIST

- On September 20, Azerbaijan claimed full control over the contentious Nagorno-Karabakh region after local forces, mostly Armenians, agreed to disarm and disband.

- Nagorno-Karabakh is located within the international borders of Azerbaijan. It is in the South Caucasus region between eastern Europe and western Asia.

- Over 1,00,000 ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh have fled to neighbouring Armenia in the last one week.

- The region is home to a majority population of ethnic Armenians and an Azeri minority, it is internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan.
- What is the history of the conflict?**
- Nagorno-Karabakh is located within the international borders of Azerbaijan.
 - It is in the South Caucasus region between eastern Europe and western Asia, spanning the southern part of the Caucasus mountains that roughly includes modern-day Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.
 - The conflict between Azeris and Armenians goes back a century, when the Ottomans attacked the South Caucasus during World War I with the help of Azeris..
 - The major issues between the two countries include delimiting the border between them, the nature of new transportation corridors in the region, the future of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the transfer of prisoners of war and other detainees.

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The Hindu : Economy (Page 11)

Circular migration: looking at both sides of the debate

In India, internal migration, which is migration within a particular country or State, has almost always been circular. With rapid industrialisation, there has been a huge flow of migrants from rural areas to urban cities



- **Circular migration** is a repetitive form of migration wherein people move to another place (the destination country) and back (country of origin) according to the availability of employment.
 - This effectively means that instead of migrating permanently or temporarily (moving for a period of time to complete any contract-based labour) to another location, people move to different locations for a brief period of time when work is available.
- It is a phenomenon mostly among low-income groups who migrate to avail of seasonally available jobs in another country, city, place etc.
- Circular migration became quite popular in the 60s and 70s with the advent of globalisation and development.
- In India, internal migration, which is migration within a particular country or State, has almost always been circular.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

TH Hindu : Science and Technology(Page 15)

Trio wins Nobel Prize in physics for finding a way to 'see' electrons



- France's Pierre Agostini, Hungarian-Austrian Ferenc Krausz and French-Swedish Anne L'Huillier won the Nobel Prize in physics for research using ultra-quick light flashes that enable the study of electrons inside atoms and molecules.
- Their technique employs pulses measured in attoseconds, a unit so short that there are as many in one second as there have been seconds since the universe's birth over 13 billion years ago.
- The laureates' research has made it possible to examine moves or changes so rapid that they were previously impossible to follow, with potential applications in both electronics and medical diagnostics.

Do you know ?

The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Economy (Page 16)

World Bank keeps India FY24 growth forecast at 6.3% on waning demand



- According to World Bank's latest India Development Update (IDU), India continues to show resilience against the backdrop of a challenging global environment.
 - The IDU, the Bank's flagship half yearly report on the Indian economy.
 - **The IDU expects that global headwinds will continue to persist and intensify** due to high global interest rates, geopolitical tensions, and sluggish global demand. As a result, global economic growth is also set to slow down over the medium term against a background of these combined factors.
 - In this context, the World Bank forecasts India's GDP growth for FY23/24 to be at 6.3%
 - Bank observes that despite significant global challenges, India was one of the fastest-growing major economies in FY22/23 at 7.2%. India's growth rate was the second highest among G20 countries and almost twice the average for emerging market economies. This resilience was underpinned by robust domestic demand, strong public infrastructure investment and a strengthening financial sector.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express : Internal Security (Page 13)

What the sections of anti-terror UAPA invoked against NewsClick say

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE DELHI Police has sealed the office of news portal NewsClick, alleging it received money for pro-China propaganda. The FIR against the portal invokes the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the stringent anti-terror law.

Terror charges

The main allegation in the FIR against NewsClick is that the news portal allegedly received illegal funding from China routed through the United States.

It is learnt that the FIR has been registered under various sections of the UAPA.

**EXPLAINED
LAW**

Among the key provisions invoked is Section 16, which prescribes punishment for terrorist acts.

Section 15 of the UAPA defines "terrorist act" and is punishable with imprisonment for a term of at least five years to life. In case the terrorist act results in death, the punishment is death or imprisonment for life. This is an offence that describes violent acts that are serious in nature.

The provision reads: "Whoever does any act with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, [economic security], or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country..."



Material confiscated from NewsClick is taken away on Tuesday. PTI

The provision describes the use of "bombs, dynamite or other explosive sub-

stances; causing death or loss/damage (destruction of property; disruption of any supplies or services essential to the life of the community in India; damage to the monetary stability of India by way of production or smuggling or circulation of high quality counterfeit Indian paper currency, coin or of any other material" as terrorist acts.

The other provisions invoked against NewsClick include Section 13 (unlawful activities), 16 (terrorist act), 17 (raising funds for terrorist acts), 18 (conspiracy), and 22 (C) (offences by companies, trusts) of the UAPA, along with IPC sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different group) and 120B (criminal conspiracy).

UAPA framework

UAPA presents an alternative criminal

law framework where the general principles of criminal law are reversed. By relaxing timelines for the state to file chargesheets and its stringent conditions for bail, the UAPA gives the state more powers compared with the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Enacted in 1967, the UAPA was strengthened by the Congress-led UPA government in 2008 and 2012.

The test for denying bail under the UAPA is that the court must be satisfied that a "prima facie" case exists against the accused. In 2019, the SC defined *prima facie* narrowly to mean that the courts must not analyse evidence or circumstances, but look at the "totality of the case" presented by the state. In *NIA v Zahoor Ahmed Watali*, the SC read the bail provisions strictly, holding that courts must only be satisfied that a *prima*

facie case can be made out to deny bail, and not consider the merit or the admissibility of the evidence.

Section 43D(5) reads: "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code, no person accused of an offence punishable under Chapters IV and VI of this Act shall, if in custody, be released on bail or on his own bond unless the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity of being heard on the application for such release."

It adds: "Provided that such accused person shall not be released on bail or on his own bond if the Court, on a perusal of the case diary or the report made under section 173 of the Code is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against such person is *prima facie* true."

- Founder and editor-in-chief of NewsClick has been arrested under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act by Delhi Police.
 - The provisions invoked against NewsClick include Section 13 (unlawful activities), 16 (terrorist act), 17 (raising funds for terrorist acts), 18 (conspiracy), and 22 (C) (offences by companies, trusts) of the UAPA, along with IPC sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different group) and 120B (criminal conspiracy).

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

- It was passed in 1967.
- The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.
- It is aimed at "more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations for dealing with terrorist activities".

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : Defence

INDIAN AND BANGLADESH ARMIES BEGIN JOINT EXERCISE

SAMPRTI-XI IN UMROI, MEGHALAYA

Posted On: 03 OCT 2023 3:21PM by PIB Delhi



- India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRTI on 03rd October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya.
 - This exercise, alternatingly organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives.
 - With its inception in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : Welfare Schemes

50 lakh Street Vendors covered under PM
SVANidhi Scheme

PM SVANidhi achieves target of covering 50 Lakh Street
Vendors

Posted On: 03 OCT 2023 7:05PM by PIB Delhi



- The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme launched on June 1, 2020, is a micro credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to ₹50,000.
- Under the scheme regular repayments are incentivized with a 7% interest subsidy and digital transactions are rewarded with cashback up to ₹1,200 per year.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Live Mint (Economy)

India tells OPEC it must be sensitive to needs of oil consuming nations

Rituraj Baruah | 2 min read | 03 Oct 2023, 09:05 PM IST



- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- OPEC's objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.

Do you know ?

- In 2016, **OPEC+ was** created with the OPEC member nations allying with ten other oil-producing countries Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan and Sudan .