

# DAILY PT POINTERS

7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023



The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 1)

## 114 seats, migrant quota cleared for J&K Assembly

Lok Sabha passes Bill; Amit Shah says reservation of seats for those displaced in the 1990s will ensure that the voice of the community is heard loud and clear in the new House

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the former seeking to reserve seats for “Kashmiri migrants, people displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir [PoK] and Scheduled Tribes” in the yet-to-be constituted 114-seat J&K Assembly.

Responding to statements made by Opposition members that abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K could not put

years ago, will be “100% implemented” by 2026 in J&K.

He said the reservation of seats for Kashmiri migrants, who were dis-

crisis arises in future, they are able to stop it.

The Reorganisation Bill increases the total number of seats in the J&K Assembly from 107 to 114, with re-

– two from the Kashmiri migrant community including one woman, and the third member being a representative of people from PoK who took refuge

### Making changes

A look at the J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and the J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill

- The Reorganisation Bill increases the total number of seats in the J&K Assembly to 114 from 107

- Nine seats are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes for the first time

- It also empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to nominate three members to the Assembly - two members from the Kashmiri migrant



**Point of view:** Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

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- The Reservation Bill seeks to replace the term “weak and underprivileged classes (social castes)” in the J&K Reservation Act, 2004 to “other backward classes”

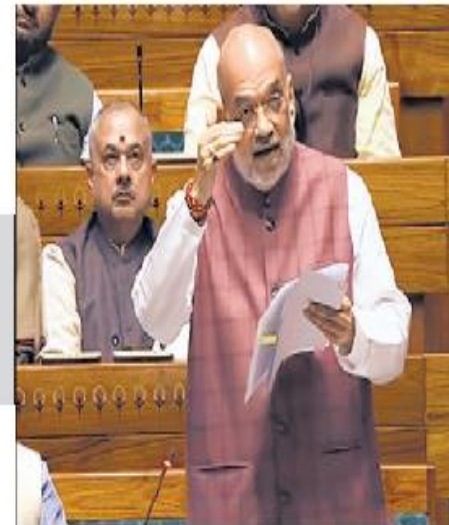
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The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 1)

## Govt. needs latitude to make peace, says CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

Noting that the government should be given leeway if a 'compromise' is necessary to save the nation, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said on Wednesday that the Assam Accord of 1985 and the new citizenship regime which followed in its wake might have been an "adjustment" reached by the Rajiv Gandhi government to calm the waves of violent anti-immigrant protests that rolled over the northeastern State for years, and threatened national peace.

"You must give the government that latitude. Even today, there are States in the northeast affected by insurgency and violence..." Chief Justice Chandrachud, heading a



Obviously, every compromise made is never perfect. The State of Assam was riven with strife at the time

Chief Justice of India  
D.Y. CHANDRACHUD  
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lenged Section 6A of the Citizenship Act of 1955.

The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Shyam Divan, claimed the provision became a "beacon" for more foreign "infiltration" into Assam, leading to the destruction of the local cultural identity.

### 'Not justified'

Mr. Divan said a justification that there was a violent political agitation, leading to a political settle-

to Assam has been rewarded with the benefits of Indian citizenship," Mr. Divan submitted.

"Obviously, every compromise made is never perfect. The State of Assam was riven with strife at the time. Does the government arrive at this compromise to bring peace to Assam or allow the strife-ridden State to continue in its path of violence merely because the compromise may 'discriminate' among States... These are vexed issues.

The Chief Justice is heading a Constitution Bench hearing a series of petitions challenging the constitutionality of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

- Section 6A was a special provision inserted into the 1955 Act in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement called the Assam Accord signed on August 15, 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi government.
  - Under Section 6A, foreigners who had entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and been "ordinarily resident" in the State, would have all the rights and obligations of Indian citizens.
  - Those who had entered the State between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 would have the same rights and obligations, except that they would not be able to vote for 10 years.

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## Punjab Governor reserves Bills for President's nod

The Hindu Bureau  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit has reserved three Bills passed by the State Assembly for the consideration of the President.

A statement issued from the Governor House on Wednesday said, "The Hon'ble Governor, Punjab, has reserved the following three Bills for the consideration of the Hon'ble President of India as per Article 200 of the Constitution of India."

The three Bills are – The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Notably, the Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill aims to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of State-run universities. Punjab State Assembly had passed these Bills during the June 19-20 session which the Governor had earlier termed illegal.

The Sikh Gurudwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023, aims at freeing the rights to telecast Gurbani from Golden Temple in Amritsar. The Punjab Police (Amend-



Governor Banwarilal Purohit

ment) Bill aims to bring about an independent mechanism for the selection and appointment of suitable persons to the post of the Director General of Police (head of police force).

As per the current practice, the States in the country send the name of all eligible officers to the Union Public Service Commission for selecting the State police head. The UPSC suggests names of three officers, from which the State government chooses one for the post.

The tiff between the Governor and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann surrounding different issues has been on public display for a while now. The Chief Minister had on November 24 written to the Governor urging him to give his assent to the pending Bills passed by the Assembly.

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- The three Bills are — The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- Under Article 200, the Governor may (a) grant assent (b) withhold assent (c) return for reconsideration by the Legislature or (d) reserve for the consideration of the President any Bill passed by the State legislature and presented to him for assent.
- Article 201 says when a Bill is reserved by a Governor for President consideration, "the President shall declare either that he assents to the Bill, or that he withholds assent therefrom". He may also direct the Governor to return the Bill, if it is not a Money Bill, to the Legislature along with a message. The House or Houses will have to reconsider the Bill within a period of six months from receiving it.

The Hindu: GSII-Polity and Governance (Page 10)

## The role of special inquiry committees of Parliament

Why is TMC MP Mahua Moitra facing an inquiry by the ethics committee of Parliament?

Rangarajan, R

The story so far:

The ethics committee of the Lok Sabha is believed to have recommended the expulsion of Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha for her “unethical conduct” and “breach of privileges”. This follows the ethics committee examining the complaints which accused her of asking questions to target a business house at the behest of a businessman in exchange for cash. She was also accused of sharing her log-in credentials with the businessman.

What is the role of ethics committee?

The ethics committee was constituted in

members; outsiders through a member, or referred by the Speaker. The Committee makes a *prima facie* inquiry before deciding to examine a complaint and presents its report to the Speaker, who places it before the House for consideration. It must be noted that the term ‘unethical’ is not defined. It is left to the Committee to decide whether any act is unethical or not. In 2007, an MP accompanying his close female companion, impersonating her as his wife was considered ‘unethical’ by the Committee. It recommended suspension of the MP from 30 sittings of the House.

What are privileges committees?

The privileges committee or special inquiry committee examines the more serious accusations against a member. In

query’ scam of 2005 where 10 MPs of Lok Sabha were recommended for expulsion.

Is an expulsion constitutional?

The Constitution under Article 101 lists down the grounds for vacation of a seat by an MP. It includes voluntary resignation, disqualification and continuous absence from the House for 60 sittings. Expulsion is not mentioned explicitly in the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court has provided conflicting judgments in this regard. In *Raja Ram Pal versus Hon’ble Speaker* (2007), it upheld the power of Parliament to expel its members for breach of privilege by interpreting Article 101 to include expulsion as a ground.

But in *Amarinder Singh versus Special committee, Punjab Vidhan Sabha* (2010),

How to reconcile privileges of the House and democratic representation?

The allegations of ‘cash for query’ against Mahua Moitra are serious in nature. However, can expulsion for such action be viewed as disproportionate punishment? Further, the citizens of the constituency would be left without a representative till next elections or a bye-election. The privileges of the House developed in medieval Britain to protect the House of Commons from an authoritarian King. It is important to preserve the dignity and privilege of the House. It is equally imperative, if not more in a modern democracy, to ensure that democratic representation is not prejudiced for political reasons. It must be noted that Parliamentary Committee proceedings are not as detailed as a judicial case that is conducted as per the Evidence Act. Even in this case, the ethics committee is believed to have recommended legal inquiry and the CBI has already registered a preliminary inquiry. It would be prudent to set up fast track courts to conduct trials for such cases in a time bound manner of say 60 days. If they are convicted in such a trial, it would result in their disqualification under the Representation of the People

THE GIST



The ethics committee of the Lok Sabha is believed to have recommended the expulsion of Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha for her “unethical conduct”, “breach of privileges” and “contempt of the House”.



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- The ethics committee of the Lok Sabha is believed to have recommended the expulsion of Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha for her “unethical conduct” and “breach of privileges”.
- **The ethics committee**
  - was constituted in 2000, to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and examine cases of ‘unethical conduct’ referred to it.
  - The Committee examines complaints filed against members of the House by other members; outsiders through a member; or referred by the Speaker.
  - the term ‘unethical’ is not defined. It is left to the Committee to decide whether any act is unethical or not.
- **privileges committees:** The privileges committee or special inquiry committee examines the more serious accusations against a member.
- In 1951, a special committee found a member guilty of promoting a business interest by putting questions in return for financial benefits.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Art and Culture (Page 14)

## Garba dance of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO list

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' was on Wednesday included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The popular dance form is the 15<sup>th</sup> cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list. Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added two years ago.

The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intan-

- Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' was on included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
  - Garba is a "ritualistic and devotional dance" that is performed on the occasion of the festival of Navratri which is dedicated to the worship of the feminine energy or 'Shakti',



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## Indian Express: GSII - Polity and Governance (Page 1)

### Electoral bonds over Rs 1,000 cr sold in poll month; Hyderabad tops sales

400% jump as compared to 2018, when the 5 states last went to polls

DAMININATH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

**POLITICAL FUNDING** through anonymous electoral bonds shot up by over 400% during the recent Assembly elections in Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram as compared to the last polls in these states in 2018, according to State Bank of India (SBI) data.

**YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW**  
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

SBI data accessed by The Indian Express under the Right to Information (RTI) Act on Wednesday showed that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

#### NOVEMBER SALES

Electoral bonds sold and encashed in 29th tranche  
**₹1,006.03 cr**

Top five SBI branches for sales

- Hyderabad: ₹359 cr
- Mumbai: ₹259.30 cr
- New Delhi: ₹182.75 cr
- Kolkata: ₹76.73 cr
- Gandhinagar: ₹50 cr



- Electoral bonds are money instruments like promissory notes that can be bought by companies and individuals in India from authorised branches of the State Bank of India (SBI).
  - Such bonds are sold in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh, and ₹1 crore and can be bought through a KYC-compliant account and donated to a political party, which can then encash them.
  - The name and other details of the donor are not entered on the instrument and thus electoral bonds are, in effect, anonymous.
  - Every political party registered under Section 29A of the RP Act which secured at least 1% of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State elections is allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in which the bond amounts can be deposited within 15 days of their issue

## Indian Express: Health-GSII / S&T-GSIII (Page 10)

### Bringing up Nidhi: 24 years with India's 'first' Pompe patient

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

AS THEY held their newborn daughter in Karnataka's Hubli, nearly 400 km from Bengaluru, Prasanna Shirol and his wife Sharda felt a fierce outpouring of love, something that would see them through the turbulent 24 years that would follow.

"Nidhi had recurrent bouts of pneumonia after she turned six months old. There were developmental delays... she never crawled like other children. Doctors suspected glycogen (the stored form of glucose) storage disease, but there was no diagnosis. Seven years and 40 doctors later, in 2007, we finally had a name for what she was struggling with - Pompe disease," says 53-year-old Prasanna.

Nidhi, India's first patient diagnosed with the rare genetic disorder, died on November 9 after spending nearly six years in a semi-comatose state. A rare inherited disorder that affects one child per million, Pompe disease is caused by a deficiency of the enzyme acid alpha-glucosidase (GAA). It results in the accumulation of glycogen in cells, particularly in muscles. Some common side effects and symptoms in-

clude muscle weakness, respiratory issues, heart problems and difficulty swallowing.

Although no cumulative government data is available, there are about 50 individuals in India who currently suffer from Pompe disease.

Following Nidhi's death, the 24-year-old's parents donated her corneas while her brain has been donated to the brain bank at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NMHANS), a Bengaluru-based facility dedicated to the preservation and study of brain tissues for research.

"If someone wants to learn about Pompe disease, they can use Nidhi's brain to help others," says Prasanna, who left his corporate job with Reliance in Hubli after Nidhi's diagnosis and moved to Bengaluru with his homemaker wife to become a full-time advocate for patients with rare diseases.

"For us, Nidhi will live through these two individuals (who receive her corneas). Even though we will never see or meet them, she will finally see the world in a way she couldn't," he says.

On their struggles to get Nidhi diagnosed, he says, "She spent most of her childhood in a wheelchair by the time she was finally

diagnosed, she was already breathing with the help of BiPAP (a breathing support device)."

There was no treatment in India for Pompe disease in 2007, but the determined Shirols reached out to a Netherlands-based doctor who facilitated Nidhi's enrollment in an enzyme replacement therapy by a US-based drug manufacturer. The pharma company covered the cost of the trial - Rs 1.5 crore per year - under its international access programme since Nidhi was India's first diagnosed case of Pompe disease.

For Shirols, the trial would prove to be a blessing. "After seven years of being bedridden, her condition started improving. We were the happiest we had ever been," says Prasanna.

A year later, in 2008, Sharada got pregnant again but a prenatal test revealed that the foetus had a 50 per cent chance of developing Pompe disease. "We decided to terminate the pregnancy and focus all our attention on Nidhi instead," he says.

Prasanna says he has spent over Rs 4 crore on Nidhi's treatment and care since 2000. He even ordered wheelchairs that were capable of accommodating what she needed to survive - an uninterruptible



It took 40 doctors for Prasanna Shirol and his wife Sharda to get a name for what Nidhi was suffering from - Pompe disease

power supply (UPS), a suction machine and a ventilator. He acquired six wheelchairs over 24 years because "they would either malfunction due to electrical short circuits or become unsuitable for Nidhi's growing body".

"I sold all my property and my house to take care of Nidhi. My father, relatives and friends gave me interest-free loans," says Prasanna, adding that he owes his well-wishers Rs 1.5 crore.

His own situation made him realise the plight of poor families, who couldn't even afford to get an enzyme test, which costs

from 5,000 to Rs 50,000, for a diagnosis.

So he established India's first Pompe Foundation. With Nidhi being India's sole Pompe patient then, the foundation didn't quite take off. Eventually, he began receiving calls from doctors across the country on patients with rare diseases. Though the demand was significant, there was no one to guide helpless parents. So Prasanna quit his job in 2010 and founded the Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI), the first NGO in the country for rare diseases.

Around this time, Nidhi se-

cured admission in school. "Sharda would sit next to the class door to help Nidhi with her bathroom breaks and suction needs (to clear liquid or semi-solid blockages in her oral cavities)," says Prasanna, adding that Nidhi scored above 65 percent in her secondary and higher secondary.

Meanwhile, the drug intake led to the development of antibodies, requiring Nidhi to undergo immunosuppressive chemotherapy. Her spine started bending gradually, making it difficult for her to sit straight in the wheelchair. At the age of 13, Nidhi underwent a surgery that involved the straightening of her bone marrow using two rods and 24 screws.

Everything was fine till 2017. Despite having enough charge to last 2.5 hours, Nidhi's portable ventilator switched off suddenly during her college's annual function. Before Sharda could find a plug point, Nidhi suffered a cardiac arrest and a stroke. Since oxygen supply to her brain stopped, she developed hypoxia and slipped into a semi-comatose state.

"Parts of her brain got damaged due to the stroke. She would move her eyes and respond to music at times, but her condition was irreversible," says Prasanna.

With Nidhi being confined to bed in her Bengaluru home, her parents transformed her room into a complete intensive care unit (ICU).

On October 29, Nidhi developed some complications and was rushed to the hospital. Her condition improved initially and she was moved from the ICU to the ward. However, she suffered a fatal cardiac arrest on November 9. Prasanna says clinical trials for rare diseases are restricted in India due to the limited number of patients.

"I tried to involve the government in becoming more proactive in arranging for treatment facilities for Pompe patients, but it is a numbers game for them. They are more focused on patients suffering from malnutrition and tuberculosis since patients with rare diseases struggle to live for even 30 years," says Prasanna, who has now become the face of rare diseases in India.

According to the Central government, an estimated 70 million people in India suffer from 450 rare diseases. He adds, "Despite our struggles, Nidhi, Sharda and I embraced life with joy and created countless cherished memories. Sharda and I will now live to help other parents like us."

- Pompe disease (also known as acid-maltase disease and glycogen storage disease II) is a rare genetic disorder that causes progressive weakness to the heart and skeletal muscles. It is caused by mutations in a gene that makes an enzyme called acid alpha-glucosidase (GAA), which the body uses to break down glycogen, a stored form of sugar used for energy.

## POMPE DISEASE

- A rare genetic disorder, it is caused by a deficiency of the enzyme acid alpha-glucosidase.
- Though there is no cure for the disease, there are treatments to manage symptoms and improve the quality of life.

- It usually affects one in a million children.
- It is diagnosed by genetic and enzyme tests.
- Although there is no cumulative government data, about 50 individuals in India currently suffer from this condition.

Symptoms

**Progressive muscle weakness**

**Difficulties in mobility**

**Respiratory complications**

**Cardiac complications**



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB: Environment-GSIII

Ministry of Coal



South Eastern Coalfields Ltd to use “Miyawaki” Plantation Method to Enhance Green Cover

With Rs.4 crore Investment Pilot Project to be Implemented in SECL Gevra Area

Posted On: 06 DEC 2023 4:59PM by PIB Delhi

- The Miyawaki method of plantation was pioneered in the 70s by Japanese botanist and expert in plant ecology Mr. Akira Miyawaki.
- This technique of plantation involves planting native trees, shrubs and groundcover plants within every square metre.
  - This method is ideal for small parcels of land and creates dense canopy layer of tall trees.
- The species chosen for Miyawaki plantation is typically of plants which do not require a lot of maintenance and can survive harsh weather and water-scarce conditions and grow rapidly in existing conditions yielding thick pockets of green cover.