

DAILY PT POINTERS

16th February, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



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

SC strikes down electoral bonds scheme, calls it unconstitutional

5-judge Bench terms the mode of funding 'manifestly arbitrary'

It says voters' right to information about political funding is violated

Scheme authorised influence of corporates in electoral process

Recently, the Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme as 'unconstitutional' and held that it violates the right to information under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

About

- The five-judge Constitution Bench quashed the amendments made to the Income Tax Act and the Representation of People Act which made the donations anonymous.
- The Court also directed the State Bank of India (the only bank authorised to sell them) to immediately stop the issuance of electoral bonds.

What is the electoral bonds scheme?

- Electoral Bonds are bearer instruments in the nature of a Promissory Note and an interest free banking instrument.
- The scheme was notified in 2018 as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties to bring transparency in political funding.
- They can be purchased by any citizen of India or entity incorporated or established in the country.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The HINDU: IR(GSII)-Page 1

India has rejected demand for data exclusivity in drug development in FTA talks: Commerce Secretary

India's generic drug industry has over the years made affordable versions of expensive drugs and become a large, global supplier itself, and such a clause could hamper the industry

February 15, 2024 06:11 pm | Updated 11:21 pm IST - New Delhi



JACOB KOSHY

COMMENTS SHARE

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- India has rejected the demand for 'data exclusivity', as part of ongoing discussions with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) towards a free trade agreement
 - The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It was set up in 1960 for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.
- Data exclusivity protects the clinical trial data of a pharmaceutical company for a particular drug.
- Generic competitors cannot apply for regulatory approval for equivalent drugs relying on the originator's data for a specified number of years. Therefore, data exclusivity lengthens the monopoly for the original drug, and hits generic drug manufacturers.
- Data exclusivity is not mandatory under TRIPS Agreement and India laws do not provide for it.
 - India is the largest supplier of generic medicines. It manufactures about 60,000 different generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories and accounts for 20 per cent of the global supply of generics

What is behind Ladakh's unrest?

Why did Ladakhis initially support the creation of a UT, and what led to the subsequent caution and anger? How has the reorganisation impacted the demography, ecology, and identity of Ladakh? What are the demands put forth by LAB and KDA? How have unemployment and economic disempowerment fuelled the protests?

EXPLAINER

Sumeda

The story so far:

Thousands returned to Leh's streets in sub-zero temperatures earlier this month, demanding full Statehood for Ladakh and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule to safeguard land, culture, language, and environment. The 'Leh Chalo' protest led by Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) resulted in a shutdown. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) set a date for the second round of discussions, but



who is an outsider, is sent to govern us. 90% of the ₹6,000 crore allocated to Ladakh is at the dispensation of a non-elected person. By the time he understands the issues, it will be time for him to leave. We demand full Statehood so that our voices are heard," Mr. Wangchuk had said.

The LAB and KDA have demanded the government to extend Ladakh's territorial control up to Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and demanded reservation of seats for the area. In a memorandum to the MHA, the alliance reiterated that Statehood will ensure stability in the region and highlighted the geopolitical importance of Ladakh to counter the twin threat of

THE GIST

Thousands in Leh protest for Ladakh's full Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule.

The shutdown unfolded in the two districts of Leh and Kargil in response to a 'Leh Chalo' protest (march to Leh) called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance organised by Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance.

Thousands in Leh protest for Ladakh's full Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule.

The **Sixth Schedule under Article 244** provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.

Application:

The Sixth Schedule applies to the Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram (three Councils each), and Tripura (one Council).

On August 5, 2019, the special status of former State of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 was revoked by the Parliament, and the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh, the latter without a Legislative Assembly.

The Hindu:IR(GSII)-Page 12

Why did Kosovo face delays in Schengen approval?

What factors contributed to the landmark development of Kosovo gaining visa-free access to the Schengen zone? What complexities arise in Schengen entry?

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

- The border-free Schengen Area guarantees free movement to more than 425 million EU citizens, along with non-EU nationals living in the EU or visiting the EU as tourists, exchange students or for business purposes (anyone legally present in the EU). **Free movement** of persons enables every EU citizen to travel, work and live in an EU country without special formalities.
- the Schengen Area encompasses most EU countries, except for Cyprus and Ireland.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu:Health-GSII/S&T(GSIII)-Page 16

New drug to treat chronic kidney disease gets approval

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), has approved Jardiance (empagliflozin) 10mg tablets to reduce the risk of sustained decline in patients with end-stage kidney disease, cardiovascular death, and hospitalisation in adults with chronic kidney disease (CKD) at risk of progression.

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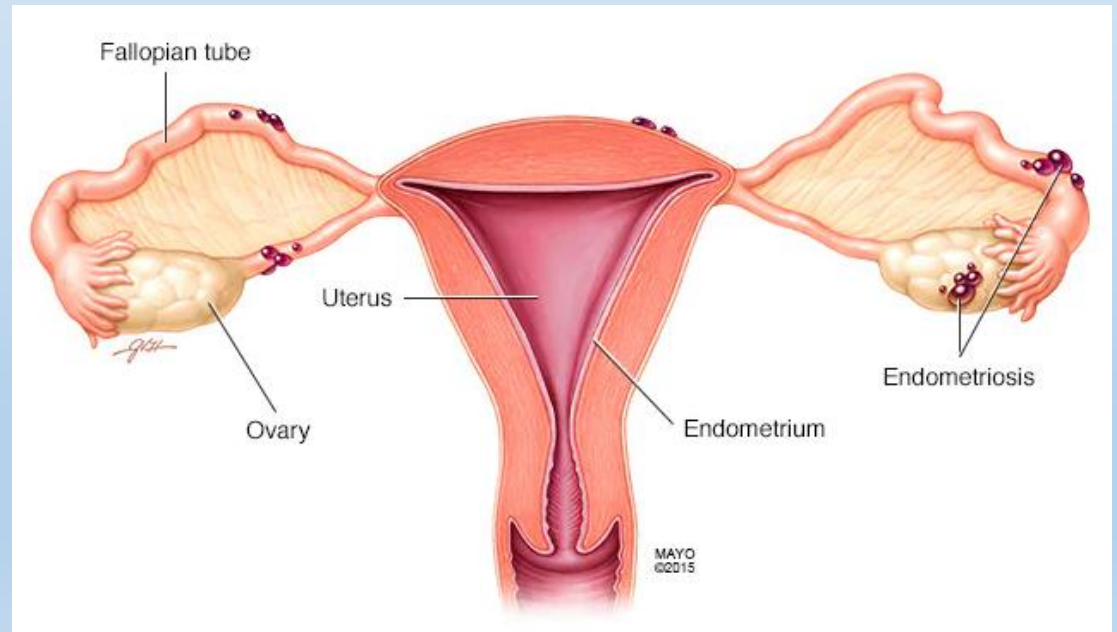
HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu:Page 22-Health(GSII)/S&T(GSIII)

Will endometriosis be exempt from the gender pass over?




- Endometriosis is a disease in which tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus. It can cause severe pain in the pelvis and make it harder to get pregnant.
- Endometriosis can start at a person's first menstrual period and last until menopause.
- Endometriosis often causes severe pain in the pelvis, especially during menstrual periods



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB:Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released Rs.235.14 crores today to the Govt of Karnataka as 3rd instalment under **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** for the financial year 2023-24 - Ms. Shobha Karandlaje

Total amount of Rs.761.89 crore allocated for the year 2023-24 under RKVY to Karnataka State for the welfare of the farmers, of which Rs.526.75 corers have already been released till date – MoS

Approval has also been issued for procurement of Bengal Gram (Channa) under PSS in Karnataka State – Ms. Karandlaje

- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana** is a centrally Sponsored scheme
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched as a flagship scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) in 2007 to incentivize States to draw up comprehensive agriculture development plans, taking into account agroclimatic conditions, natural resources and technology for ensuring more inclusive and integrated development of agriculture and allied sectors.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Economy-(GSIII)

National Coal Index Shows Decline of 4.75% in December, 2023

Posted On: 15 FEB 2024 11:32AM by PIB Delhi



- The National Coal Index (Provisional) has shown a significant decline of 4.75 % in December 2023 at 155.44 points compared to December 2022, where it was at 163.19 points.
- This notable decrease indicates sufficient availability of coal in market to meet the growing demands.
 - The downward trajectory of the NCI signifies a more equitable market, harmonizing supply and demand dynamics
- The National Coal Index (NCI) is a price index that combines coal prices from all sales channels, viz. Notified Prices, Auction Prices, and Import Prices. It considers prices of coking and non-coking coal of various grades transacted in the regulated (power and fertilizer) and non-regulated sectors.
- Established with the base year as FY 2017-18, NCI serves as a reliable indicator of market dynamics, providing valuable insights of price fluctuations.