

DAILY PT POINTERS

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Indian Express: Page 6_Polity and Governance- (GSII)

ACCEPTS STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON REGIONAL BENCHES IN SUPREME COURT

Raising judges' retirement age on performance not practical: Govt to panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

EXTENDING THE retirement age of Supreme Court and High Court judges based on their performance may not be practical and will "further erode" the powers of Parliament and may also result in "undue favouritism", the government has told a parliamentary panel.

In August last, the Standing Committee on Law and Personnel, in its report on 'Judicial Processes and their Reforms', had recommended a performance appraisal system for extending the tenure of judges of the Supreme Court and

high courts beyond the existing retirement age.

According to constitutional provisions, at present, while Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 years, judges of the 25 high courts demit office at 62. "... while increasing the age of retirement for judges, the performance of judges may be reassessed based on their health conditions, quality of judgments, number of judgments delivered.

"For this, a system of appraisal may be devised and put in place, by the SC collegium, before any judge is recommended for enhancement of their tenure," the committee headed by BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi had

recommended.

Responding to the recommendation, the government said linking performance evaluation to the issue of increase in retirement age "may not be practical and may not actually bring out the desired results".

"This will result in empowering the SCC (Supreme Court Collegium) for the evaluation of the judges at the time of giving extensions on individual basis and will further erode the powers of Parliament and empower (the) Judiciary through the SCC to take decision on the enhancement of age," it said.

The Department of Justice in the law ministry also said that this step may also result in "un-

due favouritism" and make the judges "susceptible to pressures", thus impinging on their performance as impartial judges.

On SC regional benches

The government has accepted the recommendation of the parliamentary committee that the Supreme Court should have regional benches but has pointed out that the apex court has been "consistently" rejecting the idea and that the issue is sub-judice, the panel said.

In its action taken report on its earlier submission on 'Judicial Processes and Their Reforms', the Standing Committee on Law and Personnel noted that its recommendation has been ac-

cepted by the government.

The action taken report of the committee was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

In the chapter dealing with recommendations/ observations which have been accepted by the government, the panel referred to its earlier recommendation on feasibility of regional benches of the Supreme Court.

The committee had earlier noted that the demand for having regional benches of the Supreme Court is about 'access to justice, a fundamental right.

Staggered vacations

A parliamentary panel has told the government to press the Supreme Court and the 25 high

courts to share their response at the earliest on its recommendation that judges can go for "staggered" vacation keeping in mind the huge pendency of cases.

The action taken report of the Standing Committee on Law and Personnel on its earlier report on "Judicial Processes and Their Reforms" was tabled in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The committee, in the action taken report, recalled its earlier recommendation that staggered vacation by individual judges at different times of the year will ensure courts are not shut for nearly two months every year.

In its response, the Department of Justice in the law ministry told the panel that its

recommendation has been sent to the Supreme Court and the registrar generals of the high courts after due approval of the minister. "Their response is awaited," the government said.

"The department may take up the issue with the Supreme Court and the Registrar Generals of the High Courts to forward their response on the recommendations of the Committee..." the committee told the government.

It said once this issue is finalised, the courts will have more days at their disposal that will enable them to reduce the pendency of cases and mitigate the inconvenience presently being faced by litigants.

- Extending the retirement age of Supreme Court and High Court judges based on their performance may not be practical and will "further erode" the powers of Parliament and may also result in "undue favouritism", the government has told a parliamentary panel.
- According to constitutional provisions, at present, while Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 years, judges of the 25 high courts demit office at 62.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: Page 12- Governance (GSII) / S&T (GSIII)

Rs 4,797 cr PRITHVI to boost atmosphere, polar and ocean research, says Rijiju

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 7

THE UNION Cabinet has approved Rs 4,797 crore research scheme to boost and maintain research momentum in the fields of ocean, atmospheric and polar sciences, Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Wednesday.

The PRITHvi Vlgyan (PRITHVI) will be an umbrella scheme spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to help continue many of the ongoing research projects and efforts in the areas of atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, geosphere and biosphere till 2026 Rijiju said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

With climate change and its adverse impacts affecting globally, be it in the form of extreme weather events like heavy rainfall, floods, rising sea levels, depleting glaciers, cyclones of higher intensities or prolonged dry spells – the

head remains underutilised, it can be used to support any other research area," M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told The Indian Express.

Some of the ongoing research that will now come under PRITHVI include Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS), Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART), Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER), Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE) and Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT).

Importantly, for the first time, PRITHVI will open doors for Indian scientists to join hands with international experts.

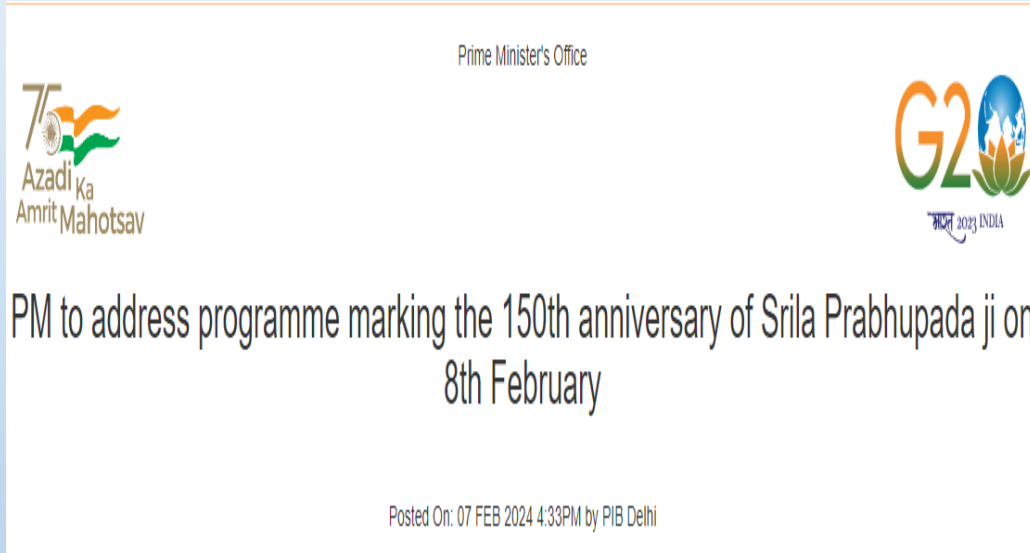
"We can now have international collaboration. Upon receiving any proposal to work, we can now consider them," he added.

Updating on Rs 4,077 crore Deep Ocean Mission launched by

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: History (GSI)



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the programme marking the 150th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada ji at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan on 8th February, 2024 at around 12:30 PM.
- The Prime Minister will also release a commemorative stamp and a coin in honour of great spiritual guru Srila Prabhupada ji.
- **Acharaya Srila Prabhupada** was the founder of **Gaudiya Mission**, who played a pivotal role in preserving and spreading the fundamental tenets of Vaishnava faith.
 - Gaudiya Mission has played a significant role in propagating the teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and the rich spiritual heritage of Vaishnavism across the world, making it the centre of the Hare Krishna Movement.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Polity and Governance (GSII)



- The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) namely Nai Manzil on 8th August 2015 with 50% funding from the World Bank, to benefit the minority youth who do not have formal school leaving certificate, i.e., those in the category of school-dropouts or educated in community education institutions like Madarasas.
- The scheme provided a combination of formal education (Class VIII or X) and skills and enabled the beneficiaries seek better employment and livelihoods.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Economy (GSIII)

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

India will become largest source of global oil demand growth between now and 2030: IEA

Urbanisation, industrialisation, and middle-class prosperity will underpin oil demand expansion

Indian government's efforts to bring clean cooking programmes have led to LPG imports surging nearly three-fold in the past decade

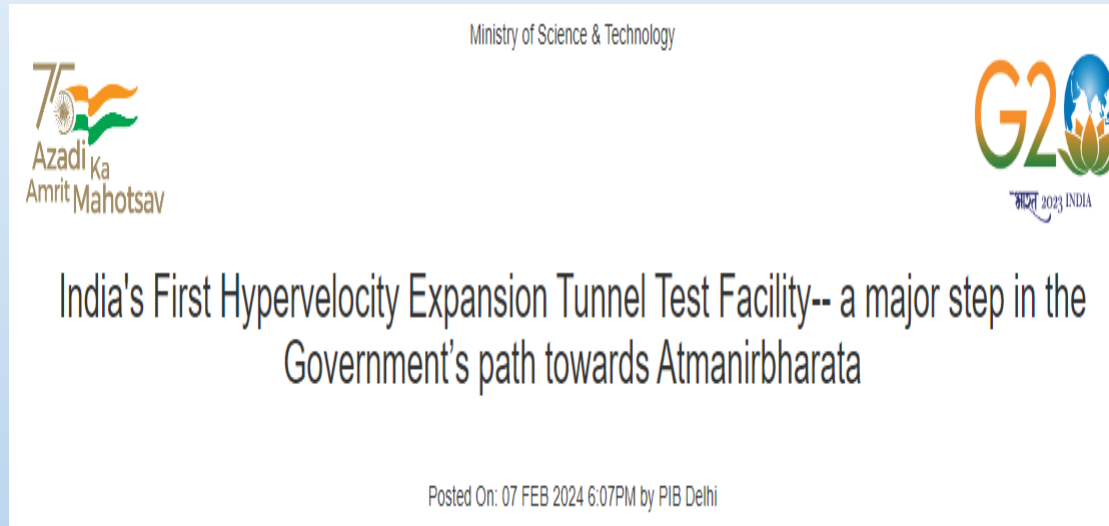
Posted On: 07 FEB 2024 4:23PM by PIB Delhi

- India will become the largest source of global oil demand growth between now and 2030, while growth in developed economies and China initially slows and then subsequently goes into reverse in our outlook, a latest report 'Indian Oil Market Outlook to 2030' released at the second edition of India Energy Week 2024 in Goa by International Energy Agency (IEA) said today.
- It further added that India's role in global oil markets is expected to expand substantially over the remainder of the decade, fuelled by strong growth in its economy, population and demographics

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: S&T (GSIII)



- A crucial step in the country's journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat has been achieved with India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility successfully established and tested by Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK). This is a major achievement that puts India amongst a handful of countries with this advanced hypersonic testing capability.
- The development of the facility was supported by the Fund for Improvement in S&T Infrastructure (FIST) of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with a sum of Rs 4.5 Crores in 2018.
- The facility was developed by the Hypersonic Experimental Aerodynamics Laboratory at the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Kanpur and is capable of generating flight speeds between 3-10 km/s, simulating the hypersonic condition.
- Named S2, it was indigenously designed and developed and is a valuable test facility for ongoing missions of ISRO and DRDO including Gaganyaan, RLV and hypersonic cruise missiles.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: IR (GSII) / Economy (GSIII)

NITI Aayog



NITI Aayog and the Kingdom of the Netherlands release 'LNG as a Transportation Fuel in Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle' Report.

Report Explores Challenges for LNG Adoption in India and Roadmap of Actionable Solutions.

Report released at the ongoing India Energy Week in Goa

Posted On: 07 FEB 2024 3:49PM by PIB Delhi

- NITI Aayog and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands released report titled 'LNG as a Transportation Fuel in Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle', at India Energy Week.
- The report explores different challenges and barriers for LNG adoption in India and recommends a roadmap of actionable solutions.
- The report further highlights the need for the development of a transparent implementation framework for these recommendations, driven by near-term goals of demand creation and market seeding.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

News on air: IR (GSII)

BIMSTEC aquatic championship: India leads tally with 18 medals on day one including 7 Gold, 9 Silver & 2 Bronze



- The first-ever edition of BIMSTEC aquatic championship is taking place at New Delhi.
- India is leading the tally with 18 medals on day one including 7 Gold, 9 Silver and 2 Bronze. Meanwhile, Thailand with 14 medal occupying the second spot and Sri Lanka is in third spot with 4 medals.
- The tournament is being held across three disciplines - swimming, water polo, and diving.
- Seven BIMSTEC member have participated in the tournament including hosts India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Do you know ?

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.