

# DAILY PT POINTERS

8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024



## The Hindu-Geography(GSI)-Page 8

### What would be the impact of the Baltimore bridge collapse?

How will the workers in the port be affected by the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge? What are the other factors affecting supply chains across the world?

Simona Stan

The collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge on March 26 has put a spotlight on the Port of Baltimore, one of the busiest harbours in the U.S., which paused shipping and immediately halted all vessel traffic in and out.

The port remained open to trucks following the incident, but the loss of maritime traffic is expected to cost \$9 million a day. The overall economic toll is likely to be higher as billions of dollars of goods are rerouted amid the prospect of supply chains being snarled for months. It will also mean a loss of tax revenue for the city and state.

Here, a supply chain and logistics expert from the University of Montana explains the short- and long-term impacts of the crash on supply chains.

#### How important is the Port of Baltimore?

The Port of Baltimore is the ninth largest U.S. port by overall trade volume. In 2023 alone, it moved around 50 million tonnes of goods between the U.S. and other countries, much of it in large shipping containers, like those stacked on the ship that rammed into the bridge. Although it's smaller than other ports on the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico, it still plays a critical role in processing U.S. international trade traffic. That's especially true for some products, such as automobiles, heavy machinery and coal. It also handles a large share of U.S. sugar imports.

#### What's the short-term impact of its closure on supply chains?

The immediate impact will be felt by the 15,000 or so workers in the port and

about 1,40,000 others who depend on it. It doesn't mean they'll be laid off, but drastically less traffic would mean less work to go around. Companies and consumers should expect some delays for packages that would have otherwise been processed by the port. How long depends on how much time it takes for ships to be rerouted to other terminals, but it should only add a matter of days or up to a week or two. Baltimore accounts for only 4% of overall East Coast trade, so it shouldn't have a major impact. Dealers will probably experience some delays receiving imported cars and light trucks, but things should be resolved within days or weeks.

#### What's the long-term impact?

The problem is that supply chains have been under stress from multiple directions lately.

Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Panama Canal bottlenecks have lengthened delivery times and increased costs for companies that rely on East Coast ports. The pause in maritime traffic at the Port of Baltimore adds one more point of pressure for trade in the region. This may lead more shippers that have a choice to send more freight through West Coast ports, which have not suffered much from the Red Sea attacks and Panama problems. This could also mean more business for trucking and rail companies if it means they have to transport more goods from the West to East Coast.

#### THE GIST

The Port of Baltimore is the ninth largest U.S. port by overall trade volume. In 2023 alone, it moved around 50 million tonnes of goods between the U.S. and other countries.

The immediate impact of the collapse will be felt by the 15,000 or so workers in the port and about 1,40,000 others who depend on it.

Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Panama Canal bottlenecks have lengthened delivery times and increased costs for companies that rely on East Coast ports.

#### How does this supply chain shock compare with other recent ones?

From a supply chain perspective, this was a freak accident. It's dramatic, it's graphic, and it forces people to pay attention to the issue. But unlike the Red Sea attacks or the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, which have led to lingering supply chain problems, fallout from the bridge collapse will be temporary. That said, we'll likely see public pressure on companies to try to prevent such a thing from happening again – even though the risk of ships striking bridges is very low.

The author is Professor of Marketing, University of Montana. This article has been republished from *The Conversation*.

- The Port of Baltimore is the ninth largest U.S. port by overall trade volume.
- In 2023 alone, it moved around 50 million tonnes of goods between the U.S. and other countries.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



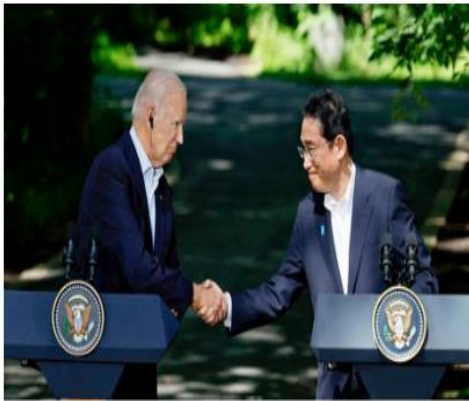
The Hindu-GS2( IR )Page 14

## 'U.S., Britain, Australia mulling expansion of AUKUS security pact to counter China'

Reuters  
LONDON

The U.S., Britain and Australia are set to begin talks on bringing new members into their AUKUS security pact as Washington pushes for Japan to be involved as a deterrent against China, the *Financial Times* reported.

The countries' Defence Ministers will announce discussions on Monday on "Pillar Two" of the pact, which commits the members to jointly developing quantum computing, undersea, hypersonic, artificial intelligence and cyber



**Wild card:** Joe Biden and Fumio Kishida may discuss Japan's inclusion into the AUKUS when the two meet this week. REUTERS

technology, the newspaper reported on Saturday.

They are not considering expanding the first pillar, which is designed to

deliver nuclear-powered attack submarines to Australia.

AUKUS, formed by the three countries in 2021, is

part of their efforts to push back against China's growing power in the Indo-Pacific region.

Rahm Emanuel, the U.S. Ambassador in Tokyo, wrote in an opinion piece in the *Wall Street Journal* on Wednesday that Japan was "about to become the first additional Pillar II partner".

U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will likely discuss expanding AUKUS to include Japan when the President hosts the Prime Minister in Washington on Wednesday, a source said.

- The trilateral agreement binds Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. together in a generational partnership for undersea military systems and strategic technology in the Indo-Pacific region at a time when China's defence capabilities are growing fast

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Environment (GSIII)-Page 18

## Gape limitation: are you a big eater?



- In ecology, 'gape limitation' stands for the idea that a predator can only eat things that fit in its mouth. Imagine a snake trying to eat a rabbit.
  - If the rabbit is too big to fit in the snake's mouth, gape limitation says the latter won't be able to eat it.
- Gape limitations also influence how animals evolve over time.
- .Understanding gape limitations is essential to predicting how changes in predator or prey populations, changes in habitats, and/or environmental disturbances could affect the structure and function of ecosystems.

### Right against adverse effects of climate change part of rights to life, equality: SC

States owe a duty of care to citizens... right to a healthy, clean environment part of this duty: Court

ANANTHAKRISHNANG  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 7

IN A significant ruling, the Supreme Court has expanded the scope of Articles 14 and 21 to include the "right against the adverse effects of climate change".

"Article 48A of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. Clause (g) of Article 51A stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen

of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures. Although these are not justiciable provisions of the Constitution, they are indications that the Constitution recognises the importance of the natural world," a three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has said.

"The importance of the environment, as indicated by these provisions, becomes a right in other parts of the Constitution.



CJI D Y Chandrachud wrote the ruling for the bench

Article 21 recognises the right to life and personal liberty while Article 14 indicates that all persons shall have equality before law and the equal protection of laws. These Articles are important sources of the right to a clean environment and the right against the adverse effects of cli-

mate change," it said.

While the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, gave the ruling on March 21, the detailed order was only uploaded on Saturday evening.

"Despite governmental policy and rules and regulations recognising the adverse effects of climate change and seeking to combat it, there is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns," the court noted. "However, this does

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Expanding scope  
THE SUPREME Court has, from time to time, expanded the fundamental rights chapter to include various facets of a dignified existence. However, this is the first time that it has included the "right against the adverse effects of climate change".

- the Supreme Court has expanded the scope of Articles 14 and 21 to include the "right against the adverse effects of climate change".
  - Article 21 recognises the right to life and personal liberty while Article 14 indicates that all persons shall have equality before law and the equal protection of laws. These articles are important sources of the right to a clean environment and the right against the adverse effects of climate change

#### Do you know ?

- "Article 48A of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. Clause (g) of Article 51A stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures. Although these are not justiciable provisions of the Constitution, they are indications that the Constitution recognises the importance of the natural world,"

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express-Defence(GSIII)-Page 1



## PERFECT LANDING

A fighter aircraft lands on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Unnao on Sunday as part of the IAF's Gagan Shakti-24 exercise. The 10-day drill, which began on April 1, involves emergency landing facility operations at various locations. The drills aim to test preparations for relief ops during calamities as well as enhance overall operational capabilities of the military. *PTI*

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to commence a 10-day exercise to test its capabilities and preparedness for high-intensity operations.
- During the exercise, known as 'Gagan Shakti-2024,' the IAF will mobilize all its bases and assets across the country.
- The exercise is being conducted at various locations across the country, including the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer.
- It was last held in 2018, during which the IAF completed over 11,000 sorties during the two-phase air manoeuvres.

### TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE IN NORTH AMERICA: WHY IS THIS SO RARE?

SETHU PRADEEP  
KOCHI, APRIL 7

ON MONDAY, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. It will not be visible in India, but this type of solar eclipse is a rare event for any particular spot.

#### What is a total solar eclipse?

A solar eclipse takes place when the Moon moves in between the Earth and the Sun. The Moon blocks the Sun's light, either fully or partially, casting a huge shadow on some parts of the world.

There are four different types of solar eclipses — total solar eclipse, annular solar eclipse, partial solar eclipse, and hybrid solar eclipse.

When the Moon blocks the Sun entirely, the areas in the centre of the Moon's shadow at the time witness a total solar eclipse.

When the Moon passes in front of the Sun but is at or near the farthest point from Earth, an annular solar eclipse occurs.

A partial solar eclipse happens when the Moon blocks just a part of the Sun, giving it a crescent shape.

A hybrid solar eclipse is witnessed when an eclipse shifts between annular and total solar eclipses as the shadow of the Moon moves across the globe.

#### How often is a solar eclipse seen?



Total solar eclipse in Wyoming, US, on August 21, 2017. Wikimedia Commons

Earth's orbit around the Sun. As a result, usually when the Moon is in between the Sun and Earth, its shadow is either too high or too low to fall on the planet.

"If you think of the Earth's orbit around the Sun as a disk and the Moon's orbit around the Earth as another disk, there is a 5-degree angle between the two disks. However, any time you have two circles that intersect each other as the two disks do, there will be two points at which the intersection occurs... These two points on the Moon's orbit (where the Moon lies in the same plane as the Earth's orbit) are called nodes," according to a report by Pennsylvania State University. Whenever the new Moon crosses one of these nodes, there is an opportunity for a solar eclipse.

- A **solar eclipse** happens when, at just the right moment, the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth
- Sometimes the Moon only blocks part of the Sun's light.
  - This is called a partial solar eclipse.
- Other times, the Moon blocks all of the Sun's light. This is called a total solar eclipse.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Defence (GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

### Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan to chair maiden 'Parivartan Chintan', a Tri-Service Conference on Jointness & Integration

Posted On: 07 APR 2024 2:38PM by PIB Delhi

Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts, is being held in New Delhi on 08 Apr 2024. A day long discussions will be chaired by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.

With the Indian Armed Forces having embarked on a major transformative change in their quest to be ready for the envisaged future wars, initiatives are being undertaken to promote Jointness and Integration as structures are modified to enable Tri- Service multi domain operations.

The 'Chintan' will be the first ever conference of the Heads of all Tri- Services Institutions, the Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and the three Services, with officers from varied service brackets, through their diverse understanding and experience, recommending measures to achieve the desired "Joint and Integrated" end state with celerity.

- Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts, is being held in New Delhi on 08 Apr 2024. A day long discussions will be chaired by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.
- The 'Chintan' will be the first ever conference of the Heads of all Tri- Services Institutions, the Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and the three Services, with officers from varied service brackets, through their diverse understanding and experience, recommending measures to achieve the desired "Joint and Integrated" end state with celerity.