

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Polity and Governance (GSII)-Page 9

Law Ministry plans to place report on simultaneous polls before Cabinet at the earliest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The report of the committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind on “one nation, one election” or simultaneous elections could be placed before the Union Cabinet as part of the 100-day agenda of the Law Ministry.

On Tuesday, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, while interacting with reporters after assuming office, said that the high-level committee under Mr. Kovind had submitted its report, and the Law Commission was also working on the subject. He had given no specific timeline though.

Sources told news agency PTI on Friday that the Ministry planned to place the report on simultaneous elections “at the earliest” as part of the 100-day agenda of the Ministry’s Legislative Department.

Prime Minister Naren-



Ram Nath Kovind

dra Modi had directed all Union Ministries and departments before the Lok Sabha election to draw up a 100-day agenda for the next government. The committee had submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu on March 15, recommending simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.

The panel had also proposed setting up an “Implementation Group” to

look into the execution of the recommendations made by the committee.

The committee had recommended 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by the State Assemblies. However, the constitutional amendment Bills would need to be passed by two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament. With most of the INDIA bloc parties opposed to the idea of simultaneous elections, the government will not find it easy to push through these amendments.

Separately, the Law Commission is also ready with a report which could recommend holding simultaneous elections for all three tiers of government – Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies – from 2029. It is also likely to have provision for a unity government in case of a hung House or no-confidence motion.

The report of the committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind on ‘One Nation, One Election’ or simultaneous elections, could be placed before the Union Cabinet as part of the 100-day agenda of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

- The idea of ONOE centres around the concept of synchronising the timing of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections across all States to reduce the frequency of polls throughout the country.
- After the enforcement of the Constitution on January 26, 1950, the first-ever general elections to Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies were conducted simultaneously in 1951-1952. The practice continued into the three subsequent Lok Sabha elections until 1967, after which it was disrupted. The cycle was first broken in 1959 after the Centre invoked Article 356 (failure of constitutional machinery) of the Constitution to dismiss the then-Kerala government. Subsequently, due to defections and counter-defections between parties, several Legislative Assemblies dissolved post-1960, which eventually led to separate polls for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

The Hindu-Art and Culture(GSI)Page 10

Thousands of Kashmiri Pandits take part in Kheer Bhawani temple festival

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Thousands of Kashmiri Pandits converged at the Kheer Bhawani temple in Kashmir Valley's Ganderbal district to attend the annual festival of Zvestha Ashtami on Friday. Many of them had migrated to different parts of the country in the 1990s in the wake of raging militancy.

"My family has been here for the past four days. The Kheer Bhawani temple has been of great importance to Pandits for centuries. We all prayed for peace in Jammu and Kashmir," Ajay Ganjoo, now a resident of New Delhi, said.

Scores of Muslims also joined the Kheer Bhawani mela and set up stalls outside the temple "to convey the message of *Kashmiriyat*". "Muslims, like in the past, sold puja paraphernalia to Pandit brethren," Sajid Sheikh, a Valley resident, said.

The temple of Kheer Bhawani is located amid chinar trees and has a nat-



Devotees attend the annual fair at the Kheer Bhawani temple at Tullamulla in Ganderbal on Friday. NISSAR AHMAD

ural spring, which is considered auspicious by Pandits.

"This time the water is *nirmal* [clean and transparent]. It's a good omen. We are hopeful of peace returning to Kashmir and Pandits returning to their homes," Bitto Kaul, a devotee, said.

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said that over 30,000 devotees paid obeisance during the Kheer Bhawani mela at Tulmulla on Friday. Security was tightened in the area as nine pilgrims were

killed and over 33 injured when a bus was attacked by militants in Reasi's Kutra area on June 9.

Several J&K political leaders, including National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and Iltija Mufti, Peoples Democratic Party leader and daughter of the party president Mehbooba Mufti, visited the temple and greeted the Pandits on the occasion. The leaders, in separate statements, said they also prayed for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

- The Kheer Bhawani Temple, situated in the middle of a natural spring, is often visited by tourists out of curiosity. Devotees offer milk and kheer to the resident deity. Popular with all tourists, it is especially revered by the Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.
- The architecture of the temple is simple yet beautifully created using smooth grey stones. Rumour has it that the waters turn black as a warning for any looming calamity.
- The temple is dedicated to the **goddess Ragnya Devi**. Situated 30 km from **Srinagar city**, it is one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Kashmiri Hindus.
- . This is the biggest festival of Hindus in Kashmir after Amarnath yatra and holds immense significance in J&K.

The Hindu : _GS 3-Economy –Page 11

NSSO survey finds COVID-19's second wave hit informal economy hard

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's large informal non-agricultural sector was badly hit by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, but has recovered gradually since then, with the number of unincorporated firms and their employees rising almost 6% and 8%, respectively, by the latter half of 2022-23, according to findings of an official survey.

Gross Value Added (GVA) by such enterprises grew by 9.83% at current prices during the period October 2022 and March 2023, in comparison with the financial year 2021-22, as per a fact sheet on the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

"It appears that the unincorporated manufacturing, trade and other service activities were hit by the second wave of the pandemic badly; however, the situation improved gradually from July 2021 onwards," the NSSO noted.



estimated 1.91 crore such firms with 3.12 crore employees. The NSSO said the lower reporting in the first quarter affected the overall annual estimates for 2021-22 of 5.97 crore firms with almost 9.8 crore workers to a great extent.

"Steep job growth"
Between October 2022 and March 2023, the number of estimated informal firms had risen to 6.5 crore with 11 crore employees. "The 7.84% annual growth [in jobs] demonstrates the sector's capacity to generate employment," the NSSO said, adding that the maximum growth in employment during the period was observed in other services (13.42%) followed by manufacturing (6.34%).
The survey data, re-

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The Hindu : _Miscellaneous

Prerna Sthal will be inaugurated tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prerna Sthal, an area inside Parliament where key statues, including that of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, have been installed after moving them from their earlier positions, will be inaugurated on Sunday, the Lok Sabha Secretariat informed the

members in a circular on Friday.

Removing the statues of Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar had drawn severe criticism from the Opposition, which called it a step towards “de-democratising” Parliament. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi within the parliamentary complex was a venue for Opposition protests.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat, on the other hand, insists that the relocation was part of the plan for the redevelopment of the parliamentary precincts after the construction of the new Parliament building.

Sharing the circular on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said: “The whole idea of this relocation and giving it a

grandiose name is to ensure that the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar are not in a prominent place right in front of Parliament House where MPs could conduct peaceful and democratic protests as and when required - and with the Modi regime they are required very frequently, almost on a daily basis.”

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Indian Express : _GS 3-Environment –Page 13

No outcome in Bonn: why money is key to climate action

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

A CLIMATE meeting in Bonn, Germany, has failed to make much headway on the crucial issue of defining a new climate finance goal. By the end of 2024, countries have to finalise a new sum of money – above the existing figure of \$100 billion per year – that the developed world must mobilise for the developing countries to help them fight climate change.

The Bonn talks, an annual fixture in June, were expected to give at least some indicative numbers. They could have been worked upon before COP29 – scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November – where they have to be finalised.

But this did not happen. All that came out was a 35-page, 428-paragraph, “input paper”, which was a broad description of the wish lists of different countries. The lists per-

tained to not just the quantum of climate finance, but also other associated issues such as who should be contributing, what should this money be spent on, and how the finance flows should be monitored. The paper is likely to be developed into a formal negotiating draft that can be agreed upon at COP29.

Search for a new NCQG

Money is central to climate action. It is needed not just for facilitating mitigation or adaptation works – mundane tasks of collecting and reporting climate data, mandatory under the 2015 Paris Agreement, also require substantial sums of money, especially in developing and poor countries, where there is a large capacity gap for this kind of work.

Under the international climate architecture set by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), rich and developed countries are obliged to provide money to developing countries to fight cli-

mate change. This is because the rich and developed countries are primarily responsible for causing climate change.

In 2009, the developed countries promised to mobilise \$100 billion every year from 2020 towards this purpose. A report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a grouping of rich countries, two weeks ago claimed that this

\$100 billion target had been met for the first time in 2022.

However, developing countries contest these claims, citing double-counting and innovative accounting, and have often blamed the developed world for not keeping its promise on climate finance.

The 2015 Paris Agreement says that developed countries must periodically increase this sum after 2025, considering the rapidly growing requirements for climate finance. The increased target, or the New Collective

Quantified Goal (NCQG), for the post-2025 period, is to be finalised this year.

The adequate amount

It is widely acknowledged that developing countries now need trillions of dollars, not billions, annually. A UNFCCC assessment last year said these countries needed about \$6 trillion between now and 2030 just to im-

plement their promised climate actions. Only for their adaptation needs, some of which are part of their climate actions, developing countries

require between \$215 billion and \$387 billion annually, it said. The assessment also said the global transition to clean energy (not just in developing countries) needed investments of about \$4.3 trillion every year till 2030, and about \$5 trillion annually after that till 2050 to reach a global net zero status.

These are assessments of a few specific

needs. The overall requirement for climate finance is much greater.

A few months back, India formally proposed that developed countries should commit themselves to providing at least \$1 trillion every year after 2025. The Arab countries have said this figure should be at least \$1.1 trillion. African countries have demanded \$1.3 trillion.

The developed countries have not made any offer publicly. They have just acknowledged that the new amount has to be higher than \$100 billion per year.

Debate over contribution

According to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, only the countries listed in Annexure 2 of UNFCCC – 25 of them and the European Economic Community – are responsible for providing climate finance to developing countries. The listed countries, however, have been trying to shift the responsibility to others as well. They argue that many other countries are

now economically better off than in the early 1990s when the list was made. They also argue that the requirements are too huge for the original group of listed countries to meet. China, the world’s second-largest economy, oil-rich Gulf countries, and others like South Korea are not part of Annexure 2. In Bonn, China said it was playing its part in the global fight against climate change, but had “no intention” of taking additional responsibility.

All eyes on Daku

NCQG is the biggest thing on the climate change agenda this year. An agreement on this has to happen at COP29. The \$100 billion figure was not a negotiated outcome. The offer was made in a statement by then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at COP15 in Copenhagen. It was later agreed upon by all the other Annexure 2 countries.

LONGER VERSION ON
indianexpress.com/explained

- Countries made little progress in finding common ground on the crucial issue of climate finance at the mid-year UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany, even as floods, extreme rains, and brutal heatwaves upended lives and livelihoods in several nations.
- Negotiators will now have to work exceptionally hard to achieve success at the UN climate conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, where the world will reach the deadline to agree on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). The NCQG is the new amount that developed nations must mobilize annually starting in 2025 to support climate action in developing countries.
- Some wealthy nations argue that countries with high emissions and higher economic capacities, such as China and petro-states that classify themselves as developing countries under the Paris Agreement, should also contribute to climate finance.
- Developing countries, however, cite Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, which states that climate finance should flow from developed to developing nations.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express- Miscellaneous

KAVLI PRIZE

Like the Nobel Prize in cutting edge fields of astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

EIGHT SCIENTISTS will be awarded with the Kavli Prize this year.

"The prizes are awarded in three areas: astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience — the largest, the smallest, and the most complex," Fred Kavli (1927-2013), after whom the prizes are named, said.

Kavli was a Norwegian-American scientist, businessman and philanthropist, who founded Kavlico in 1958. The company is a leading manufacturer of pressure transducers (devices which convert pressure into an electric signal) used in a wide variety of industries, from aviation to home appliances.

After selling Kavlico for \$340 million in 2000, Kavli established the Kavli Foundation, which awards the Kavli Prize, in partnership with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, and the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

Nobel comparisons

Since 2008, 73 scientists from 19 countries have been honoured with the biennial Kavli Prizes. Ten of

2024 winners


All eight winners are professors at leading American universities.

ASTROPHYSICS: David Charbonneau of Harvard University and Sara Seager of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are this year's winners. They have been recognised for discoveries of exoplanets, and the characterisation of their atmosphere. The citation states that contributions of Charbonneau and Seager included pioneering "methods for the detection of atomic species in planetary atmospheres and the measurement of their thermal infrared emission".

NANOSCIENCE: Robert Langer of MIT, Armand Paul Alivisatos of the University of Chicago, and Chad Mirkin of Northwestern University were given the prize.

Langer was recognised for his idea of nano-engineering a material for the controlled release of therapeutic biomolecules, which could help development of controlled drug delivery systems to treat diseases like schizophrenia.

Alivisatos devised semiconductor crystals or "quantum dots" which could be used as multi-colour fluorescent probes in bio-imaging.

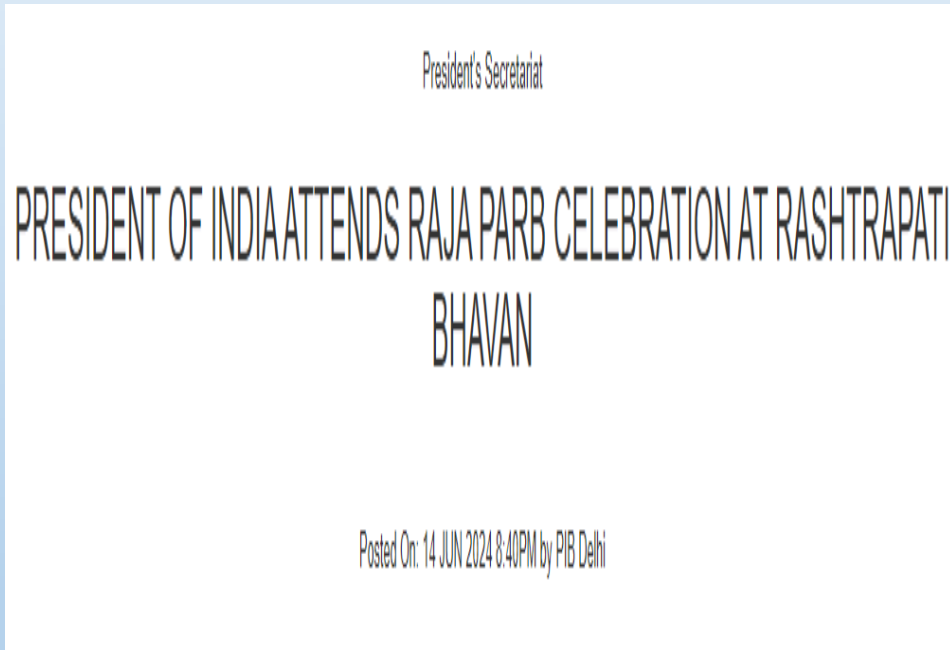


- The Kavli Prize is awarded in honour of Norwegian-American businessman and philanthropist Fred Kavli (1927-2013).
- The Kavli Prizes are awarded in three areas: astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience — the largest, the smallest, and the most complex
- The inaugural prize was announced in 2008

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB –Art and Culture(GSI)



- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu attended the Raja Parb celebration at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (June 14, 2024). She also witnessed the cultural performances which included Raja geet and dance performances such as Mayurbhanj Chhau dance, Sambalpuri dance and Karma dance.
- This is the first occasion when the Raja Parb, an agriculture-based festival of Odisha, was celebrated at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This celebration provided a unique glimpse of Odia culture and lifestyle to the participants.
- The Raja Parb is one of the most celebrated festivals of Odisha. The three-day-long agricultural festival is celebrated during the onset of monsoons. Women and children celebrate this festival with immense fervour.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB:GS 2-Health

AYUSH

WHO Designates CCRAS-NIIMH, Hyderabad as Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine Research

NIIMH is the first WHO Collaborating Centre for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine"

Posted On: 14 JUN 2024 4:35PM by PIB Delhi

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad, a unit under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush as a WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine" (CC IND-177). This prestigious recognition is granted for a period of four years, starting from June 3, 2024.
- Established in 1956, NIIMH, Hyderabad, is a unique institution dedicated to documenting and showcasing medico-historical research in Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy, Biomedicine, and other related healthcare disciplines in India.
- NIIMH is the first WHO Collaborating Centre for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine"