

DAILY PT POINTERS

18th June, 2024



The Hindu-Population and Associated Issues (GSI)- Page 6

'OBC leaders should focus on ST quota for Dhangar community'

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

Pro-Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Monday said that OBC leaders should prioritise securing ST category reservations for the Dhangar community rather than criticising the demand for Maratha quotas.

He said that OBC leaders are "not their enemies" and assured that Marathas would support the Dhangar community's reservation under the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category.

"The OBC leaders are not our enemies. I have not spoken anything against them. Instead of criticising and talking about the Maratha quota, they should spend their energy to get reservation for the Dhangar community under the ST category. The Maratha community will also stand firmly with them," he said from a private hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (previously Aurangabad) where he is underm-



OBC leaders are not enemies, says Manoj Jarange-Patil. FILE PHOTO

ratha reservation under the OBC category, two activists from the Other Backward Classes in Jalna have been fasting, seeking assurance that their quota will remain unaffected.

On Monday, a government delegation, led by State Minister Atul Save, Rajya Sabha member Dr. Bhagwat Karad and Shiv Sena MP-elect Sandipani Bhutire, met with the fasting activists - Laxman Hake and Navroth Waghmare - urging them to end their fast, but they refused. The protesters clarified that they are not against Maratha reservations, but it should not impact the

The Dhangars are shepherds who live mostly in Western Maharashtra and Marathwada.

The Dhangars are currently on Maharashtra's list of Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes (VJNT), but they have been demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the past several decades.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-IR(GSII)Page 10

Laws on mercenaries in war zones

Indian nationals lured by the promise of lucrative jobs in Russia have died fighting on the frontlines. As states increasingly hire private military companies to operate in conflict zones – can they qualify as mercenaries under international law? How can India secure the interests of its overseas migrant workers?

REPORTER

From the Hindustan

The story so far: A June 10, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) acknowledged the flight of two Indian nationals who were recruited by the Russian Army to fight in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The MEA in a press statement said that the Indian Embassy in Moscow had already issued this year with the Russian Ambassador in New Delhi and other Indian missions, seeking for well-secured and removal of Indian nationals currently serving in the Russian Army.

In February, The India reported for the first time that Indians were going to fight while fighting on behalf of Russia in the Ukraine war. Over the past few weeks, 100 Indians have been recruited by the Russian Army after being recruited by agents with the help of money and a Russian passport. It is reported for these recruits to be a "no loss to our policy" India's Ministry of External Affairs, which has been according to the Indian Army, which has been according to the Indian Army, which has been according to the Indian Army.

At least 100 Indian have not yet returned to the MEA and has been Embassy in Moscow, seeking help to return. The death of the two Indian nationals highlights a disturbing reality: Indians are increasingly being sent to fight in other countries, often being recruited to fight domestically and to secure jobs domestically and to secure jobs domestically and to secure jobs domestically.

What has been the MEA's response?

The MEA has issued a press note asking Indians to exercise caution while seeking employment opportunities in Russia. In May, the External Affairs of Investigation (EAI) said that it had had a letter from the Russian Embassy in New Delhi to seek help to return. The MEA has issued a press note asking Indians to exercise caution while seeking employment opportunities in Russia. In May, the External Affairs of Investigation (EAI) said that it had had a letter from the Russian Embassy in New Delhi to seek help to return.

Who are mercenaries?

The distinction between conventional combatants and mercenaries is a fundamental cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). A combatant is typically a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, whereas a mercenary is recruited from a third-party state unrelated to the conflict.



THE GIST

Over 100 Indian, mainly 100 Indian nationals recruited by the Russian Army after being recruited by agents with the help of money and a Russian passport.

The distinction between conventional combatants and mercenaries is a fundamental cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). A combatant is typically a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, whereas a mercenary is recruited from a third-party state unrelated to the conflict.

Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (API) envisages six cumulative conditions for a person to qualify as a mercenary. The person i) should be specially recruited locally or abroad in order to fight in an armed conflict, ii) has taken a direct part in the hostilities, iii) is motivated to take part in the hostilities essentially by the desire for private gain and, in fact, is promised, by or on behalf of a party to the conflict, material compensation substantially in excess of that promised or paid to combatants of similar ranks and functions in the armed forces of that party, iv) is neither a national of a party to the conflict nor a resident of territory controlled by a party to the conflict, v) is not a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, vi) has not been sent by a state which is not a party to the conflict on official duty as a member of its armed forces.

Under customary IHL, being a mercenary is not a crime. However, if captured, they are not entitled to the status of war or any protected categories under the Geneva Conventions.

This allows for their prosecution for war crimes or other grave breaches of international law.

They may also face charges under the domestic law of the detaining nation. Nevertheless, mercenaries qualify for humane treatment in accordance with the fundamental guarantees of humanitarian law, as outlined under Article 75 of the API.

However, over time, IHL has been being expressed in various ways, often in a way that is not intended to be a blanket ban on mercenaries. The adoption of the organization of a party to the conflict, which is the distinction of mercenaries by Article 47 of API, which included a more extensive

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NSAs of India, U.S. review progress on iCET, silent on Pannun investigation

Ajit Doval and Jake Sullivan resolve to prevent the 'leakage' of sensitive technologies to countries of 'concern'; they welcome the discussions on India's planned acquisition of MQ-9B drones, announce launch of a new semiconductor partnership between General Atomics and Indian firm 3rdTech

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, who is on a two-day visit to India, on Monday resolved to prevent the "leakage" of sensitive and dual-use technologies to countries of "concern" as they chaired the second meeting of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

Mr. Sullivan arrived just hours after reports confirmed that Indian national Nikhil Gupta was extradited to the U.S. for alleged links to a plot to assassinate Sikh separatist Gurbaj Singh Pannun. While neither side confirmed if the Pannun case was discussed, it was expected to be high on the agenda.

During the second iCET meeting, the two NSAs set the vision for the next chapter of the strategic

according to a joint fact sheet issued after the dialogue.

"They underscored their commitment to orienting our cooperation around breakthrough achievements in priority critical and emerging-technology areas, by focusing our efforts on co-production, co-development, and research and development opportunities to ensure we stay at the leading edge of innovation and enhancing coordination with like-minded nations to deliver secure, reliable, and cost-competitive technology solutions for the Indian and American people and our partners around the world," the fact sheet said.

Mr. Sullivan also held talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and later called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Met US NSA Jake Sullivan. India is committed to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partner-



Commenting ties: U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan calls on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Modi said on X.

On Tuesday, both the NSAs are scheduled to address the India-U.S. iCET roundtable with industry heads, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Mr. Sullivan's India visit was cancelled twice earlier due to geopolitical developments.

India and the U.S. are currently in advanced stages of talks for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B unmanned a-

manufacture of General Electric GE-414 jet engines as well as the Stryker infantry vehicles.

"We welcome the discussions on India's planned acquisition of the MQ-9B platforms, the possible co-production of land warfare systems, and progress on other co-production initiatives outlined in the India-U.S. Roadmap for Defense Industrial Cooperation," the fact sheet said in this regard.

priority area for both countries, the fact sheet announced the launch of a new strategic semiconductor partnership between General Atomics and Indian firm 3rdTech to co-develop semiconductor design and manufacture of "precision-guided ammunition and other national security focused electronics platforms".

The fact sheet also outlined several steps both countries would take in new and emerging areas which in a large way would also address dependency on China.

For instance, on rare-earth minerals, it said, "Promoting India's vital role in the Mineral Security Partnership, including through co-investing in a lithium resource project in South America and a rare earths deposit in Africa, to responsibly and sustainably diversify critical mineral supply chains."

The ambitious iCET was announced by Mr. Modi

Biden on the sidelines of the Quad Summit in Tokyo in May 2022 and was launched by the NSAs in January 2023 comprising key technology sectors including space, semiconductors, advanced telecommunications, artificial intelligence, quantum science, biotechnology and clean energy.

Subsequently, new areas were included including biotechnology, critical minerals and rare earths processing technologies, digital connectivity, digital public infrastructure and advanced materials.

Pannun investigation

Indian national Mr. Gupta 52, was arrested in the Czech Republic last year at the request of the U.S. government over the plot against Pannun.

India, which has come under intense pressure from the U.S. and other countries, has instituted a high-level investigation in

- President Biden and Prime Minister Modi announced the U.S.-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) in May 2022 to elevate and expand strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses, and academic institutions of our two countries.

The Hindu :GS3-Science and Tech(GSIII)

‘Digi Yatra could be expanded to hotels, rail travel, public places’

The e-gates are also being ramped up at airports to cover various checkpoints such as baggage drop and boarding gates; the vision is to enhance seamless movement across India, says CEO of Digi Yatra Foundation Suresh Khadakbhavi

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Digi Yatra, a check-in service at airports based on facial recognition technology, may be implemented at hotels and public places such as historical monuments, says the chief executive officer of the Digi Yatra Foundation, Suresh Khadakbhavi. A prototype for this use-case has been developed and discussions are on with government agencies such as the Tourism Ministry, he adds.

“The vision is to create a travel stack for seamless movement across India,” Mr. Khadakbhavi said in an exclusive interview with *The Hindu* while talking about the future use-cases of Digi Yatra.

“This would enhance travel experience for a tourist who has to produce a passport for check-in at a hotel or at police stations for verification,” he said. Digi Yatra could also be used for rail travel, and an initial discussion has also been held with the Railway Ministry. Nationals of certain countries such as Pakistan are required to re-



A passenger using the Digi Yatra facility, which has been rolled out at 14 airports across the country, and, right, CEO of Digi Yatra Suresh Khadakbhavi. B. VELANKANNI/RAIL SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



station. Tourists of other nationalities who hold a visa for a period of more than 180 days, are also required to register at the Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Mr. Khadakbhavi explained that extending Digi Yatra to hotels and public places would prevent data leakage as people often tend to share unencrypted form of identity documents through photocopies and screenshots, whereas Digi Yatra ID does not carry any personally identifiable information. The Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem only saves a hash value or a numerical value that identifies the content of the file so that none of the four data items shared by

passengers at the time of

Launched in 2022

The Digi Yatra initiative is digital processing of air travellers which uses their biometrics such as a facial scan instead of a boarding pass to enable paperless movement through various checkpoints at an airport. The initiative was rolled out at airports in December 2022, and today covers 14 airports while 15 more airports will be included by the end of 2024.

The primary aim of the initiative at the time its policy document was launched in 2017 was to improve passenger throughput (or number of passengers passing through various checkpoints) at airports. This would achieve

ing passenger volumes by ensuring more efficient airport operations, alongside physical expansion of airports in the country. But the proposed use-case for hotels and other public places implies that the role for Digi Yatra could extend beyond air travel. The Digi Yatra Foundation itself is a not-for-profit private company which is a consortium of five private airports that have a combined shareholding of 74%, and the Airports Authority of India which holds the remainder 26% share.

At airports, so far Digi Yatra e-gates were deployed primarily at entry gates outside airports as well as security screening queues inside the passenger terminal building. New

well as baggage drops. “Digi Yatra was envisaged for all the touchpoints, such as airport entry gates, check in, baggage drop and boarding gates. But airports rolled them out for airport entry gates and security checkpoints, and some have started to also implement it at baggage drop,” Mr. Khadakbhavi said explaining this would eliminate the need for producing boarding passes wherever passengers are required to do so.

On the issue of privacy concerns raised by its policy document, such as access to data for third party vendors and the circumstances under which its mandatory data purges within 24 hours can be set aside, the CEO said that the foundation will soon be releasing a revised policy document to address language issues that have raised concerns over possible misuse.

On concerns over lack of consent from users at airports where enrolment are being carried out on the day of travel, Mr. Khadakbhavi blamed “overenthusiasm” among private staff in enrolling travellers and that they were in con-

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The Hindu –Environment(GSIII)

'EU carbon border tax will penalise British green energy'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters

LONDON/BRUSSELS

British wind and solar farms exporting power to continental Europe could face CO2 fees from 2026—even though they don't produce any emissions—unless the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) can agree to changes around the EU's carbon border tax.

The charges, set out in a little-noticed clause of the CO2 levy law, could hit revenues of renewable energy projects in the UK, add to already-high EU power prices and even lead to higher emissions, industry sources and analysts told Reuters.

"It's a problem on both sides," said Adam Berman, deputy director of industry group Energy UK.

"(It) disincentivises clean power in the UK at the moment in which we're trying to ramp up provision of clean power, and it's going to increase (power) prices in northern Europe."

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose a CO2 emissions fee on imports to the EU of steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen, unless the exporting nation has equal CO2 pricing policies.

Under its current design, the CO2 fee for power would be calculated using a default value based on average and highest power



Green penalty: EU charges can make it uneconomical to export excess clean power to Europe. REUTERS

generation emissions. The British energy industry says that will unfairly penalise renewables.

"It is an issue that we are conscious of and one that we have raised with the

has raised, with the EU," Catherine Stewart, the UK Treasury's deputy director for trade policy, told an event in Brussels last month.

A European Commission

The extra cost could make it uneconomical to export excess clean power from Britain to Europe at certain times when demand is weaker, renewables generation is high, and power prices are low, analysts said.

Analysis from Aurora Energy Research, shared with Reuters, showed as much as 3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable power generation, enough to power up to 2,000 homes a year, could be curtailed by 2030 if the fee proves a disincentive to exporters.

"You are adding a tax on exporting, so this essentially reduces the profit margin every time you want to export," said Pranav Mehta, GB Power & Renewables Lead at Aurora.

In 2020, the carbon border

der fee could knock 5% off the price British renewable projects can earn for their power, Aurora said.

Higher prices

Reduced access to cheap British electricity could increase wholesale power prices by up to 4% in markets like Ireland and Northern Ireland's Integrated Electricity Market which import a lot of power from the UK, the Aurora analysis showed.

If European countries boost coal and gas power generation to make up the shortfall, CO2 emissions could even rise—by as much as 13 million tonnes a year, equivalent to emissions of 8 million cars, an earlier analysis by AFRY suggested.

A European Commission

sion spokesperson said renewable power export will be able to avoid the CO2 fee if they can comply with certain criteria and prove their origin.

But industry figures say that could be tough.

"Most of the electricity (across interconnectors) is traded anonymously... so it's almost impossible to demonstrate what that carbon content is," said Pieter Jan Marsboom, product and services manager at UK-Belgian power interconnector Nemo Link.

British and EU diplomats have quietly begun discussing the issue, but the highly political nature of any post-Brexit deal between the two means no progress is expected before the UK general election on July 4.

- CBAM is the EU's landmark tool to fight carbon leakage and one of the central pillars of the EU's ambitious Fit for 55 Agenda.
- It will equalise the price of carbon between domestic products and imports. This will ensure that the EU's climate policies are not undermined by production relocating to countries with less ambitious green standards or by the replacement of EU products by more carbon-intensive imports. CBAM is a WTO-compatible measure that encourages global industry to embrace greener and more sustainable technologies.

Indian Express—Agriculture (GSIII)-Page 10

DSR cultivation needs less water, labour; why is it still not popular in Punjab?

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, JUNE 17

DIRECT SEEDING OF RICE (DSR), the technique of sowing promoted by the Punjab government for the past several years, has not had many takers this season as well. DSR, known as the tar-wattar technique of sowing, started last month, and sowing by the traditional transplantation method on June 11.

Last year, only 1.73 lakh acres of the 79 lakh acres under paddy cultivation in Punjab — only 2% — were sown by DSR.

The government's target is to bring 7 lakh acres under DSR this year, less than 10% of the total rice acreage. It has offered an incentive of Rs 1,500 per acre to

and lead to better crop health.

DSR does not require nursery preparation or transplantation. Paddy seeds are directly sown in the field 20-30 days ahead of when they would have been transplanted.

After the field has been irrigated and prepared using a laser leveler, seeding is carried out using a seed drill or lucky seeder machine. It is crucial to treat the seeds — they are soaked in a fungicide solution for eight hours, and dried for half a day before sowing.

The first round of irrigation is carried out 21 days after sowing, followed by another 14-17 rounds at 7-10 day inter-

vals, depending on the soil type and quality of monsoon rain. The final round of irrigation is done 10 days before harvesting.



Direct seeding of rice (DSR) and (right) paddy transplantation. Anju Agnihotri Chaba

Punjab, where rapidly plunging groundwater levels foretell a crisis of desertification.

DSR also requires less labour, and the crop matures 7-10 days sooner, which leaves farm-

ers with heavy or medium-to-heavy-textured soils. This is primarily because light-textured soils do not retain water well.

A senior officer in the Punjab Agriculture

Department has less clay and more sand. Dr M S Bhullar, Principal Agronomist at Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana, who headed the development of the tar-wattar DSR technique, told *The Indian Express* that only 20% of Punjab's soil is light-textured.

The Majha (northwestern) and Doaba (northeastern) regions of the state predominantly have heavy- and medium-to-heavy-textured soil, whereas Malwa (central and southern Punjab) contains pockets of heavy-textured, medium-textured, and light-textured soils.

IRON CONTENT: The iron content of the soil also determines the suitability of DSR. Soils that are severely deficient in iron are not suitable for tar-wattar DSR.

Experts say that in several places, even medium-textured soils are unsuitable only due to the lack of iron. This is likely to be

which is brown in colour.

Lack of iron content can severely impact yields. Sometimes, farmers may even have to transplant the crop anyway, after a month or so, leading to DSR losing its labour-saving benefits.

The way forward

Farmers who use DSR in unsuitable soil often do not get the expected yields, and end up developing apprehensions regarding the technique and revert to the traditional method. Negative feedback spreads quickly by word of mouth, dissuading even farmers for whose fields DSR may have been ideal.

Education and awareness of farmers is key to enable the adoption of the new technique, and departure from the older method, experts say. They suggest that extensive training and a ready helpline should

- Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) describes the process of growing rice from seeds sown in the ground as opposed to transplanting seedlings from a nursery.
- DSR, as the name suggests, requires no nursery preparation or transplantation. Paddy seeds are directly sown, roughly 20-30 days prior to when they would have been transplanted. .
- Direct seeded rice is seen to be most productive, environmentally friendly and financially feasible rice production systems used today.

Indian Express–S&T (GSIII)-Page 10

MIFEPRISTONE

Commonly available pill, part of a two-drug regimen along with misoprostol, used for medical abortions

THE US Supreme Court on June 13 rejected a petition by anti-abortion groups seeking to undo the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of mifepristone, a commonly available abortion pill. In a unanimous ruling authored by Justice Brett M Kavanaugh, the court held that the petitioners lacked a direct stake in the dispute, and thus could not sue the FDA.

While this verdict preserves access to mifepristone in the US for the time being, the court has kept the doors open to other attempts to limit the availability of the drug.

This development comes nearly two years after the United States' apex court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, effectively repealing the federal right to abortion.

The drug

Mifepristone is part of the two-drug regimen used for medical abortion. The patient first takes mifepristone to induce an abortion, and then misoprostol to empty the uterus. Mifepristone blocks progesterone (the hormone that helps maintain a pregnancy), misoprostol triggers uterine contractions, causing the body to expel the foetus as in a miscarriage.

The regimen was approved for use up to 10 weeks of pregnancy by the FDA in 2000. Since then, more than six million people have used mifepristone for abortion. Currently, the pill is used in about two-thirds of abortions in the US. Studies have found the pill to be safe, and years of research have shown that serious com-



Mifepristone is FDA-approved for use till 10 weeks of pregnancy. Reuters

of the drug should be suspended, removing mifepristone from the market.

Subsequently, an appeals court in New Orleans partially overturned this ruling, to the extent that it invalidated the FDA's approval of the pill. The Supreme Court then put the appeals court's ruling on hold, and agreed to hear the case.

Apex court's ruling

To reject the petition by the anti-abortion groups and individual doctors, the Supreme Court cited the "personal stake requirement" laid down in one of its 1982 judgments. The personal stake requirement basically means that the party seeking relief has to have a "personal stake in the outcome of the controversy", i.e. there has to be a causal connection between the appellant's asserted injury and the defendant's challenged action.

The Supreme Court found that the de-

- Mifepristone is part of the two-drug regimen used for medical abortion. A patient first takes mifepristone to induce an abortion and then misoprostol to empty the uterus.
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Indian Express:GS 3-Economy

UNITED STATES & EUROPEAN UNION LAST YEAR IMPOSED CVDs ON SOME PRODUCTS

US, EU anti-subsidy action: Mechanism to verify tax refunds in the pipeline

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

THE FINANCE Ministry and the Commerce and Industry Ministry are working on an institutional mechanism to verify tax refunds given to exporters under the government's key duty remission scheme to steer clear of countervailing duties imposed by top importing countries such as the European Union (EU) and the US, a government official said.

This comes after the US and EU last year imposed countervailing duties (CVDs) on paper file folders, common alloy aluminium sheet and forged steel fluid following an anti-subsidy investigation. CVDs are tariffs on imported goods that are imposed to offset subsidies given by the exporting country's government, aimed at protecting



File

the domestic industry.

The need for a new verification method emerged after the US sought clarity on India's method for verification of the rates provided to the exporters

EXPLAINED
US query on
RoDTEP rates

THE US has sought clarity on India's method for verification of the rates provided to the exporters under the government's Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme. The RoDTEP rates are decided by the Commerce Ministry based on the recommendation made by a committee.

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mendation made by a committee headed by former Commerce and Home Secretary GK Pillai.

"The US does not recognise the GK Pillai Committee. They are asking if India has an official verification system in place or not. So we need to have an official verification mechanism to ascertain or verify that the rate which the exporters are getting is actually within the level of duty which they are paying," the official quoted above said.

"The Commerce Ministry is consulting with the Department of Revenue (DoR) to formulate a verification mechanism to validate the RoDTEP rates. There will be format and teams will be deployed at the field level. Details such as who will comprise the team and what will be the do's and don'ts is being worked out. There will be a joint system involving Directorate General of

Trade Remedies (DGTR) as well," the official said.

The RoDTEP scheme, announced in January 2021, refunds embedded duties and taxes, such as value added tax (VAT) on fuel used in transportation, mandi tax and duty on electricity. It replaced the WTO-incompatible Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) scheme, which had faced several challenges from WTO members.

The RoDTEP scheme operates under a budgetary framework and for FY24, Rs 15,070 crore was allocated to boost exports of items such as pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic chemicals and articles of iron and steel among other items.

Europe and the US are among India's largest trade partners. India's exports to the US in FY24 stood at \$77 billion and about \$86 billion to Europe.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB:GS 3-Economy

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

PM to release 17th installment of PM-KISAN scheme at Varanasi tomorrow

More than 9.26 Cr. farmers will receive the benefits amounting to over Rs.20,000 crore

PM to also distribute Certificates to more than 30,000 SHGs trained as Krishi Sakhis

Posted On: 17 JUN 2024 2:30PM by PIB Delhi

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will release the 17th instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on 18th June 2024 at Varanasi in which more than 9.26 Cr. farmers will receive the benefits amounting to over Rs.20,000 crore.
- PM-KISAN scheme launched on 24th February 2019 to supplement the financial needs of all land-holding farmers subject to certain exclusion criteria of higher income status. Financial benefit of Rs 6,000/- per year in three equal instalments, every four months, is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. Till now over Rs 3.04 lakh crores has been disbursed to more than 11 Crore farmers across the nation and with this release, the total amount transferred to the beneficiaries since the inception of the scheme will cross well over Rs 3.24 lakh crores.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB:GS 3-Defense

Ministry of Defence

IAF CONTINGENT COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISE RED FLAG 2024

Posted On: 16 JUN 2024 11:29AM by PIB Delhi

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent participated in the Exercise Red Flag 2024 conducted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska of the United States Air Force, from 04 Jun to 14 Jun 24. This was the second edition of Ex Red Flag 2024, which is an advanced aerial combat training exercise, held four times in a year by the US Air Force. The exercise witnessed participation of the Indian Air Force along with Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom, Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf), German Luftwaffe, and the US Air Force (USAF)..
- Red Flag is an air combat exercise conducted with multiple scenarios designed to provide realistic combat settings.