

# DAILY PT POINTERS

26th July, 2024




The Hindu : \_GS 2/Governance–Page-1

## States have unlimited right to tax mineral-rich lands: SC

Constitution Bench, in an 8:1 verdict, holds that Parliament, through Mines and Minerals Act, cannot restrict States from taxation; any dilution will impact their ability to raise revenues

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI



 Fiscal federalism entails that the power of the States to levy taxes within the legislative domain carved out to them and subject to the limitations laid down by the Constitution must be secured from unconstitutional interference by Parliament  
**D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**  
Chief Justice of India

A nine-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, on Thursday held by an 8:1 majority that Parliament cannot limit the power of State legislatures to tax mineral-bearing lands and quarries. The judgment, freeing States from the restrictions imposed by the Centre, is in tune with the federalist principles of governance.

“Any dilution in the taxing powers of the State legislatures will necessarily impact their ability to raise revenues, which in turn will impede their ability to deliver welfare schemes and services to the people. The ability of the State governments to invest in

physical infrastructure, health, education, human capacity, and research and development is directly correlated to the raising of government revenues... Fiscal federalism entails that the power of the States to levy taxes within the legislative domain carved out to them and subject to the limitations laid down by the Constitution must be secured from unconsti-

tutional interference by Parliament,” the Chief Justice said.

The verdict noted how mineral-rich States such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha continue to have per capita income below the national average.

The judgment said Parliament, through the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957, cannot restrict the

States from legislating on the taxation of mining lands and quarries.

### ‘Royalty not a tax’

The court further held that royalty paid to the States by mining lease holders is not a tax. “Royalty is not a tax. Royalty is a contractual consideration paid by the mining lessee to the lessor for enjoyment of mineral rights,” the Chief Justice said.

The judgment came in a batch of 86 appeals filed by different State governments, mining companies and public sector undertakings.

The case has its roots in a dispute between India Cements Ltd. and the Tamil Nadu government.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12

- A significant judgment delivered in a 8:1 ratio by a nine-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud held that the power of State Legislatures to tax mining lands and quarries is not limited by the Parliament’s Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957.
- The judgment frees States from the restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance.
- The majority judgment pronounced by Chief Justice Chandrachud said that State Legislatures derive their power to tax mines and quarries under Article 246 read with Entry 49 (tax on lands and buildings) in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- The majority verdict further clarified that royalty paid by those who lease mines to the government is not tax.
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## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 4

### Anti-defection law: two Jharkhand MLAs disqualified

**Amit Bhelari**  
PATNA

On the eve of the six-day monsoon session, the Jharkhand Assembly Speaker's Tribunal on Thursday disqualified two legislators under the anti-defection law with effect from July 26.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) MLA Lobin Hembrom represents the Borio seat in Sahibganj district whereas BJP MLA J.P. Patel represents the Mandu Assembly seat in Ramgarh district.

Both have been found guilty of defection under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. Speaker Rabin Nath Mahato gave the verdict and disqualified both legislators from the Assembly.

#### Defection hearing

The hearing on the defection has been going on for the past many days in the tribunal of the Speaker and the order was reserved on Tuesday.

Both the MLAs had unsuccessfully contested this year's Lok Sabha election against the wishes of their parties.

Mr. Hembrom contested the Lok Sabha election

from the Rajmahal seat against his party candidate Vijay Kumar Hansdak following which JMM president Shibu Soren had suspended him from the party for six years and sought action for defection.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Patel had left the BJP for Congress and contested from the Hazaribagh seat on a Congress ticket against BJP candidate Manish Jaiswal.

#### LoP's complaint

Leader of the Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri had complained against him of defection. After hearing the arguments of both sides, the Speaker Tribunal issued the order.

In Mr. Hembrom case, it was said in the Speaker's tribunal that he contested the election as an independent in 1995 against the party but no action was taken that time and neither was he expelled from the party.

The argument on behalf of Mr. Hembrom was that he had been expelled from the party but no notice had been received regarding this, and despite that he had voted in favour of Hemant Soren in the Assembly during the trust vote.

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- Both the MLAs had unsuccessfully contested this year's Lok Sabha election against the wishes of their parties.

#### Related Law

- The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, commonly known as the anti-defection law, was introduced in 1985 with a view to curb the tendency among legislators to switch loyalties from one party to another and facilitate the toppling of regimes and formation of new ones. It provides for the Presiding Officer of the legislature to disqualify any defector on a petition by another member.
- The law contemplates two kinds of defection: (a) by a member voluntarily giving up membership of the party on whose symbol he got elected (b) by a member violating a direction (whip) issued by his party to vote in a particular way or to abstain from voting.

## The Hindu –Economy(GSIII)-Page-10

### India's illegal coal mining problem

How prevalent is illegal coal mining in India? What are the legal frameworks governing coal mining in India? Why is the responsibility for addressing illegal mining placed on State governments? What factors contribute to the persistence of illegal coal mining? What safety risks do workers face?

#### EXPLAINER

Prityal Prakash

#### The story so far:

**I**n July 13, three workers died of asphyxiation inside an illegal coal mine in Gujarat's Surendranagar district. The officials said that the workers were working in a mine near Bhet village in Thangadh taluka without helmets, masks, or other safety equipment. The first information report (FIR) indicated that the accused failed to provide essential safety gear to the labourers, who died after inhaling toxic gas in the mine. The police have registered a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against four people.

#### What is the issue?

The Surendranagar incident is not an isolated case.

In June 2023, three people, including a ten-year-old child, were reportedly killed after an illegal mine collapsed in the Dhanbad district of Jharkhand. Similarly, at least three people were killed in October 2023 after a coal mine collapsed during illegal extraction in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district.

These are just a few examples of how illegal coal mining has led to worker fatalities in India.

Coal in India was nationalised in two phases: first with the coking coal (used for the production of coke in the steel industry) in 1971-72; and then with the non-coking coal mines in 1973. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is the central legislation that determines eligibility for coal mining in India. Illegal mining constitutes a law and order problem, which is a State list subject. Hence, the onus of dealing with it falls on State governments rather than the Union government.

#### Why is illegal coal mining rampant in India?

According to the Ministry of Coal, illegal



**Mining peril:** Labourers carry baskets of coal from an open cast mine in Jharkhand. AP

mining in India is mostly carried out in abandoned mines or shallow coal seams in remote or isolated places. Several factors contribute to illegal coal mining in India.

Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel in India, accounting for 55% of the country's energy needs. The high demand for power in India translates into a high demand for coal, which often outstrips the legal supply, prompting illegal supply. Many areas that are rich in coal are also situated close to homes for populations struggling with poverty and unemployment, which contributes to illegal mining in these areas.

In remote areas, mining regulations can be weak due to inadequate monitoring and lack of resources, leading to weaker enforcement. This can result in the rise of "coal mafias," as has been alleged in multiple cases of illegal coal mining in India. For example, in 2018, activist Marshall Bam of the North East Indigenous People's Federation registered a complaint accusing a "police-backed" coal gang of threatening him. Mining tragedies are not uncommon in coal-rich Meghalaya.

Illegal coal mining also allegedly receives tacit support from political leaders in areas where it is prevalent, making it difficult to curb. In 2023, the Assam-based political party Assam Jatiya

coal dust, and the lack of safety equipment significantly increases this risk. The miners in the Surendranagar incident also died of carbon monoxide poisoning. According to District Collector K.C. Sampat, 2,000 wells had been filled in recent times, but some of them might have been illegally reopened, where the incident happened.

Illegal mines lack proper structural support to carry out the extraction of coal, making working conditions hazardous and vulnerable to cave-ins, landslides, and explosions. Workers may also be exposed to high levels of toxic substances like lead and mercury, which can cause acute poisoning or long-term chronic medical conditions.

Several people who work in illegal coal mines are untrained for the job and for the risks it poses. There is a lack of proper training, quick response facilities, and knowledge in case of emergencies. Operator negligence and worker exploitation are also rampant in illegal coal mining.

#### Why do governments struggle to cut down illegal coal mining in India?

Questions regarding illegal coal mining have been raised in the Parliament, but since it is a law and order issue, the Union government often shifts the blame to State authorities. A mix of economic, social, political, and regulatory factors makes it difficult for governments to shut down illegal coal mining in India.

Illegal coal mining, by any means, is not a novelty; it has existed since before coal was nationalised and continues to exist in pockets in coal-rich areas or near abandoned mines. The high demand for coal as a fuel makes illegal mining rampant and challenging to control. Local economies in many areas depend on mining, and once official operations run their course, illegal mining takes its place to support the local community.

The legal framework governing mining is complex, which can possibly lead to bureaucratic hurdles and inefficiency in governance, allowing illegal mining to exist.

#### THE GIST

Three workers died of asphyxiation in an illegal coal mine in Gujarat's Surendranagar district on July 13 due to a lack of safety equipment.

Illegal coal mining is widespread in India and has led to numerous worker deaths.

Illegal mining is a law and order issue falling under State jurisdiction, making State governments responsible for addressing it.

High demand for coal, poverty, unemployment, weak regulations, and alleged political support contribute to the prevalence of illegal coal mining.

- Coal in India was nationalised in two phases: first with the coking coal (used for the production of coke in the steel industry) in 1971-72; and then with the non-coking coal mines in 1973. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is the central legislation that determines eligibility for coal mining in India.

- Illegal mining constitutes a law and order problem, which is a State list subject.

### Why is illegal coal mining rampant in India?

- illegal mining in India is mostly carried out in abandoned mines or shallow coal seams in remote or isolated places.
- Several factors contribute to illegal coal mining in India.
  - Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel in India, accounting for 55% of the country's energy needs. The high demand for power in India translates into a high demand for coal, which often outstrips the legal supply, prompting illegal supply.

## The Hindu—Places in news (GSI)-Page 10

# What is behind Rwanda's election outcome?

How did President Paul Kagame secure such overwhelming support?

Ayan Datta

### The story so far:

In July 15, Rwanda held its fourth presidential election since the 1994 Tutsi genocide. Partial results released by Rwanda's National Electoral Commission (NEC) reveal overwhelming support for President Paul Kagame. With 79% of the votes counted, Kagame has secured over 99% of the votes. Opposition leaders Habineza Frank of the Democratic Green Party and Independent candidate Mpayimana Phillippe secured less than one per cent of the votes each.

### How did Rwanda politically progress?

On 6 April, 1994, Rwanda's Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a plane crash, allegedly by the Tutsi-led armed group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Between April 7 and July 15, 1994, the state-sponsored Hutu armed group massacred over 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in revenge attacks. In 1994, the RPF defeated Rwanda's government, ended the genocide and

restored law and order. The RPF took control of Rwanda and established a transitional government of both Hutus and Tutsis, which ruled from 1994 to 1995. Between 1996 and 2002, Rwanda's leadership was preoccupied with fighting Hutu armed groups in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and could not prioritise nation building.

In 2003, Rwanda adopted a new Constitution and became a semi-presidential republic. The same year, multi-party elections were held for the first time. Kagame was elected as Rwanda's President. Under his leadership, the RPF rapidly consolidated power, winning landslide majorities since 2003.

In 2015, the government amended the constitution through a referendum, enabling Kagame to rule till 2034 and strengthening the RPF's dominance.

### What has been the role of Kagame?

A U.S.-trained military officer of Tutsi ethnicity, Kagame joined the RPF in 1990. As the RPF's leader, Kagame led the armed group to end the genocide. Between 1994 and 2000, he was

Rwanda's *de facto* leader, first as Vice President and then as Acting President.

According to Rwanda's Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the economy grew by over eight per cent annually under Kagame's leadership. Between 2000 and 2017, his targeted social welfare schemes lifted over one million people out of poverty, while life expectancy rose from 29 to 67 years. However, Western observers criticised his government as authoritarian for suppressing opposition forces and civil liberties. In 2024, Freedom House accused his government of surveillance, torture, arbitrary detentions, and assassinations of dissents.

### What do the election results convey?

Kagame's victory conveys wide-ranging support for his programmes of economic progress and political stability. Given that Rwanda is still a developing country, Kagame's campaign resonated with the electorate's aspirations for economic freedom and reaffirmed his successful record of providing the stability needed for development.

Kagame's victory demonstrates the effectiveness of his party machinery, with opposition candidates struggling to draw crowds. However, Kagame was virtually unchallenged, with opposition candidates receiving one per cent of votes combined, reflecting the RPF's efforts to suppress genuine political competition. The suppression of the candidates also reflected Kagame's authoritarian tendencies. The pro-government decisions of the National Election Commission reflected the absence of robust democratic institutions.

### Does the Rwanda election hold any significance for Africa's democratic process?

South Africa, Senegal, Chad, and Rwanda have completed their general elections, others are heading to the polls. While South Africa and Senegal had free and fair elections, polls in Chad and Rwanda saw incumbents controlling opposition forces.

While Rwanda enjoys an impressive developmental record, its authoritarian tendencies and democratic deficits reflect the larger African trends of democratic backsliding and electoral malpractices. Since the RPF was initially an armed group that became the country's ruling party, its political dominance reflects the persistent issue of militarisation of civilian politics that affects African states like Gabon and Guinea. Kagame's victory will mark continued political stability, but its military involvement in the DRC will contribute to regional instability.

Ayan Datta is a research intern in the Africa Studies programme at the NIAS

### THE GIST

▼ Rwanda held its fourth presidential election on July 15, with President Paul Kagame winning overwhelmingly with over 99% of the votes.

▼ The partial results show Kagame's dominance, while opposition leaders received less than one per cent of the votes combined.

▼ Kagame, a U.S.-trained military officer, led the RPF to end the genocide and has been a central figure in Rwanda's recovery and economic growth, despite criticism for authoritarian practices.

- Rwanda held its fourth presidential election since the 1994 Tutsi genocide. Partial results released by Rwanda's National Electoral Commission (NEC) reveal overwhelming support for President Paul Kagame.

## Rwanda

It is a country situated in Central Africa, bordered to the North by Uganda, to the East by Tanzania, to the South by Burundi and to the West by the Democratic Republic of Congo



## The Hindu –Welfare Schemes(GSII)-Page 14

### Minister launches revamped Model Skill Loan Scheme

**Maitri Porecha**  
NEW DELHI

Skill Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary launched the revamped Model Skill Loan Scheme on Thursday, two days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced hiking the eligible size of loans for high-end skilling courses under the scheme to ₹7.5 lakh from ₹1.5 lakh.

#### Low fund uptake

The earlier Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Skill Development, notified in November 2015 to create a credit guarantee fund for courses aligned to the National Skills Qualification Framework, faced multiple challenges. As on March 31, loans amounting to ₹115.75 crore had been extended to just 10,077 borrowers.

Skill Development Ministry officials said the low fund utilisation over the past decade under the scheme was due to low ticket size of loans (up to ₹1.5 lakh), even as course costs and fees rose due to inflation, leaving many high-cost courses out of the scheme.

“Only member lending institutes of the Indian Banking Association (IBA) were allowed to lend earlier, and there was low uptake by both private and public sector banks due to their limited reach,” a Ministry official added.

Under the new scheme, the lending network has been broadened from only IBA banks to include Non Banking Financial Companies and small finance banks, with access to more skill courses and higher loan limits.

- Skill Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary launched the revamped Model Skill Loan Scheme, two days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced hiking the eligible size of loans for high-end skilling courses under the scheme to ₹7.5 lakh from ₹1.5 lakh.
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Indian Express–Disaster Management –GSIII–Page 2

## Shah-led committee approves disaster mitigation projects

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday approved several disaster mitigation and capacity building projects, including combating urban flooding and checking glacial lake outburst floods, for various states.

"The committee gave its nod to nine proposals for funding from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). The proposals approved include six projects in Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, West Bengal and Maharashtra at a total cost of Rs 2,514.36 crore for urban floor management. The six cities where the funds will be spent are Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune," an MHA spokesperson said.

According to an official statement, the committee also considered a proposal to implement Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme in all the 28 states. "Three project proposals were approved under the



Home Minister Amit Shah

als of 11 states at a total outlay of Rs 1,691.43 crore," it said.

"In addition, the committee also approved a project proposal for Glacial Lake Outburst Flood risk mitigation for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh at a total outlay of Rs 150 crore. The Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Mitigation Project will provide necessary impetus to these four states in taking necessary mitigation measures to address GLOF risks," the spokesperson said.

"The committee also approved a proposal of Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme (YAMS) at an outlay of Rs 470.50 crore from NDRF, which will be implemented in 315 most disaster-prone districts

- A high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday approved several disaster mitigation and capacity building projects for various states that include combating urban flooding and checking glacial lake outburst floods.
- The committee gave its nod to nine proposals for funding from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- Among the proposals approved include six projects in Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, West Bengal and Maharashtra at a total cost of Rs 2514.36 crore for urban floor management.
- The committee also considered a proposal to implement Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme in all the 28 states.
- In addition, the committee also approved a project proposal for Glacial Lake Outburst Flood risk mitigation for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh at a total outlay of Rs 150 crore.

Indian Express—Economy/Environment –GSIII-Page 7

## No pollution control permits for 'white category' sectors now

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THOSE INDUSTRIES which are practically non-polluting and categorised under the 'white category' by the Central Pollution Control Board will now not require prior permission of the state pollution control boards to establish and operate under the Air Act, 1981 and Water Act, 1974, according to two separate draft notifications of the Environment Ministry.

These permissions known officially as 'consent to establish' (CTE) and 'consent to operate' (CTO) are granted to regulate industries that discharge effluents or emit pollutants into the environment. The ministry has also proposed to do away with the CTE permit for "projects/activities" that require prior environmental clearance (EC).

The CTE is granted by the state pollution control board concerned

EXPLAINED

**E** White category industries

WIND AND solar power projects, assembly of air coolers, bicycle assembly are some of the projects and activities that come under the white category and are exempted from CTE and CTO permits. After recategorisation by CPCB in 2016, industrial sectors with a Pollution Index score including and up to 20 come under the category. The PI of any industrial sector is a number from 0-100.

carrying either standard or specific conditions to be adhered to for complying with pollution norms. Now, with the draft notification proposing to do away

with the CTE permit, these conditions could be merged with the environment clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment.

As per the Water Act, 1974, and Air Act, 1981, the CTE or a NOC is required before the commencement of the construction activities and CTO before starting operation of units like individual establishments from the state pollution control boards concerned.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought out two separate draft notifications, which are notified under the Air Act, 1981, and Water Act, 1974, respectively. It has sought comments and objections on these notifications within 60 days.

White category industries, exempted from the CTO and CTE permit regime, would have to inform the state pollution control boards about their operations through self-declarations, the draft notifications said.

- Those industries which are practically non-polluting and categorised under the '**white category**' by the Central Pollution Control Board will now not require prior permission of the state pollution control boards to establish and operate under the Air Act, 1981 and Water Act, 1974, according to two separate draft notifications of the Environment Ministry.
- These permissions known officially as 'consent to establish' (CTE) and 'consent to operate' (CTO) are granted to regulate industries that discharge effluents or emit pollutants into the environment.

### Do you know ?

- Wind and solar power projects, assembly of air coolers, bicycle assembly are some of the projects and activities that come under the white category and are exempted from CTE and CTO permits. After recategorisation by CPCB in 2016, industrial sectors with a Pollution Index score including and up to 20 come under the category. The PI of any industrial sector is a number from 0-100.



Indian Express—Science and Tech—GSIII—Page 17

## LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAKS IN US AND CANADA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

TWO SEPARATE outbreaks of listeriosis, an infection caused by consuming food contaminated with the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*, have recently been reported in the US and Canada.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the outbreak having taken place across 12 states. So far, 28 people have been hospitalised, of whom two have died.

Canada has thus far reported 12 cases spread across three provinces. Two people have succumbed to the illness.

### What is listeria and listeriosis?

Listeria is a type of bacteria found in soil, vegetation, water, sewage, and animal and human faeces. It is more likely to contaminate certain kinds of foods — such as milk, raw sprouts, soft cheeses, and deli meat.

Most people who ingest contaminated food do not fall sick. For vulnerable populations, which includes people with compromised immune systems, the elderly (aged 65 and above), and pregnant women, the infection can be deadly. The median age of the infected patients in the US outbreak is 75.

Symptoms of listeriosis include vomiting, nausea, cramps, severe headache, constipation, and fever.

### How is listeriosis treated?

Intestinal listeriosis, which manifests



Contaminated deli meat is behind the outbreak in US. Getty Images

### What do we know about the recent outbreaks?

Of the 18 infected people the CDC interviewed, 16 had consumed raw/undercooked meat sliced at delis.

Canada's listeria outbreak is connected to the contamination of plant-based refrigerated beverages, including the Danone's Silk brand. About 15 items under the Silk brand were recalled on July 8 by the Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the regulatory body.

There are concerns the outbreak may be similar to one in 2008 when contaminated cold cuts from Maple Leaf Foods, one of Canada's largest meatpackers, left 22 people dead, and 57 ill.

### What are some measures that the public should take?

The CDC advised the public, especially high-risk groups, to avoid unheated deli meats, cheeses and salads, and opt for

## What is listeria and listeriosis?

- Listeria or *Listeria monocytogenes* is a type of bacteria found in soil, vegetation, water, sewage and even the faeces of animals and humans. Listeria-contaminated food can lead to an infection called listeriosis.
- People with compromised immune systems, pregnant persons and their offspring and the elderly (aged 65 and above) are vulnerable.

## What are the symptoms of listeriosis?

- Most people who ingest listeria-infected food do not fall sick or develop symptoms. The bacteria can be present in the infected person's system for up to two months until the symptoms present themselves, making it difficult to establish the connection between what was consumed and the infection.
- Treatment depends on the extent of the infection. In many cases, intestinal listeriosis manifests within a day or two of consuming the contaminated food item and may lead to diarrhoea and vomiting. The treatment is similar to one for a routine stomach infection and could require antibiotics.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB–Defense(GSIII)

Prime Minister's Office

PM to visit Kargil on 26th July on the occasion of 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas

PM to carry out First Blast of the Strategic Shinkun La Tunnel Project

The project will provide all weather connectivity to Leh

On completion it will be the highest tunnel in the world

Posted On: 25 JUL 2024 10:28AM by PIB Delhi

- Kargil Vijay Diwas, celebrated every year, is a significant day in the history of India. It is observed to pay tribute to the bravery of Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country during the Kargil War of 1999.
- Additionally, it also commemorates the country's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999 and marks the successful culmination of Operation Vijay. In this operation, the Indian Armed Forces reclaimed the territories in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir that had been infiltrated by Pakistani soldiers and militants.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB–Defense(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

### INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR MULTINATIONAL MILITARY EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST

Posted On: 25 JUL 2024 2:41PM by PIB Delhi

- The Indian Army contingent departed today for the Multinational Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The exercise will bring together military forces from around the world to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities. Last edition of Exercise KHAAN QUEST was conducted in Mongolia from 19<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023.
- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003. Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise with current year being the 21<sup>st</sup> iteration.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Issues related to poverty and hunger (GSII)

### UN Report: Global Hunger Crisis Deepens, Targets For 2030 Eradication Goal Under Threat



- United Nations' goal to eradicate world hunger by 2030 seems increasingly challenging to achieve due to the impacts of wars, climate change, and economic crises. According to a UN, chronic hunger remained high and healthy food was out of reach of many people. The annual State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report said that around 733 million people faced hunger in 2023. It said that the situation in Africa was particularly dire, with one in five people there experiencing hunger. According to the report jointly compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization based in Rome, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the World Food Program, a nutritious diet was beyond the financial reach of over one-third of the global population in 2023