

# DAILY PT POINTERS

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## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 8

### Are lie-detector tests legally valid?

Why has the CBI obtained permission from a Kolkata court to conduct polygraph tests? How are these tests administered? Why have experts and scientists flagged concerns regarding their efficacy? What do judicial precedents say?

**THE GIST**

**On August 30**, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted a second round of polygraph tests on seven people, in connection with the rape and murder of a resident doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

**Deception detection tests (DDTs)** are scientific procedures employed to detect probable deception during interrogation.

These tests include narco-analysis, polygraph tests, and brain mapping.

A polygraph test operates on the presumption that specific physiological responses are triggered when a person is lying.

In contrast, narco-analysis involves the injection of a drug called sodium pentothal into the accused, inducing a hypnotic or sedated state. The third method, brain mapping, measures a subject's neural activity — specifically brainwaves — using electrodes attached to the face and neck. It operates on the principle that the brain generates distinctive brainwaves when exposed to familiar stimuli, such as an image or a sound.

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The Hindu –IR(GSII)-Page 12

## Relations between India and Pakistan unlikely to become better, finds survey

The study, carried out in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, says 48% of Indians, 31% Pakistanis, and 32% Bangladeshis will favour a 'reversal' in conditions created by Partition: a small proportion felt status of minorities, underprivileged was 'worse than expected' in the three countries

Suhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

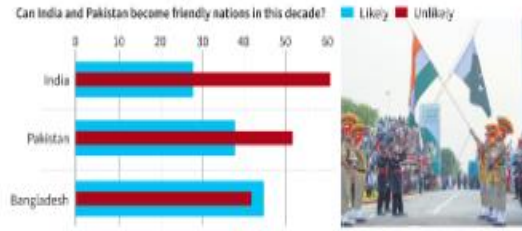
More than 60% of Indians and more than half of all Pakistanis surveyed believe the two countries cannot have friendly relations in this decade, says a new survey by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR)-C Voter that looks at the attitudes of Indians, Pakistanis, and Bangladeshis on a number of political, economic, and foreign policy issues.

The downturn in ties between India and Pakistan since 2016, after which no high-level bilateral talks have been held, is clearly mirrored in the mood in the two countries, shows the survey, which reached out to about 1,00,000 respondents, 12,000 of whom completed the survey in total across the three countries.

In contrast, previous surveys in 2011 and 2013 had indicated a much higher optimism for reconciliation in the subcontinent, with the *Amman Ki Asha* (hope for peace) poll in 2011 showing two-thirds of

### Friendly neighbours?

In a CPR-C Voter survey, approximately two-thirds of respondents in India and almost half of those in Pakistan said that it is unlikely that India and Pakistan can become friends in this decade



people surveyed in both countries had felt that peace was "attainable in their lifetimes", up 35% since the 2011 survey.

The survey was carried out in 2022, the organisers of the exercise said, and its results were released last week in Delhi in a report titled "South Asia in a changing world: what citizens in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh think 75 years post-Partition".

"What we have learnt is that South Asians are comfortable with several contradictions. While there is still much nostalgia about Partition, they also now

believe India and Pakistan cannot be friendly nations," said Rahul Verma of the CPR, who co-authored the report.

According to the survey, 48% Indians, but only 31% Pakistanis and 32% Bangladeshis would favour a "reversal" in the conditions created by Partition. However, 62% of Indians felt it was unlikely and 28% said that it was likely that India and Pakistan could become friendly in the near future, while 52% of respondents in Pakistan said it was unlikely, and 38% said it was likely. Significantly, respondents in Ban-

ladesh were more positive about the possibility of India-Pakistan ties, with more respondents there (49%) saying good relations were likely, and 40% saying they were unlikely.

#### Dialogue with Pakistan

The survey results came even as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar conceded at a public event last week that the chances of dialogue with Pakistan were now bleak. "I think the era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over. Actions have consequences," he said, speaking at the release of a book

*Strategic Conundrums: Reshaping India's Foreign Policy* by former diplomat Rajiv Sikri in Delhi on Friday, where Dr. Jaishankar defended the Modi government's policy in the neighbourhood.

"Insofar as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, Article 370 is done. So the issue today is – what kind of relationship can we possibly contemplate with Pakistan?" Mr. Jaishankar added, warning that India's responses to "positive or negative events" would be reactive rather than passive. All eyes are now on how New Delhi will respond to an invitation from Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Heads of Government meet on October 15-16, as no Indian Minister has travelled to Pakistan in more than eight years.

Asked about the role of global powers in the regions, the CPR-C Voter survey found that Indians believe their country had the highest influence in South Asia, while Pakistanis and Bangladeshis felt China had the most influence in the region, followed by the

United States. Indians were the least concerned about Chinese interference (less than half) while more than two-thirds of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis showed "high concern" over Chinese interference, which is significant given the two countries have much closer bilateral ties with Beijing than India does.

The survey received completed responses on 75-80 questions dealing with the state of democracy, the strength of institutions, as well as trends in economic progress, and authoritarian tendencies of the leadership. "It seems that South Asians like strong leaders and technocrats," Dr. Verma said, commenting on the results of the survey, which found most respondents quite optimistic about the future economic condition of their countries despite present distress.

A large proportion felt that South Asia was becoming "more religious", and a small proportion felt that the status of minorities and underprivileged groups was "worse than expected" in the three countries.

Over 60% of Indians and more than half of Pakistanis surveyed believe that friendly relations between India and Pakistan are unlikely in this decade.

The survey reflects a downturn in bilateral ties since 2016, following a period of no high-level talks.

Previous surveys from 2011 and 2013 had shown greater optimism for reconciliation between the two countries.

The survey, conducted in 2022, involved around 100,000 respondents, with 12,000 completing it across India,

Pakistan, and Bangladesh

48% of Indians, 31% of Pakistanis, and 32% of Bangladeshis favor a reversal of Partition conditions.

The upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Heads of Government meet could test India's stance on engagement with Pakistan.

Regional Influence:

Indians believe their country has the most influence in South Asia.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## The Hindu –Geography(GSI)

La Nina to take root in September; North India may witness heavy rain



- With a La Nina or a cooling of the central Pacific Ocean expected to firmly take root in September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a rainy September with several parts of North India expected to receive heavy rainfall.

La Nina refers to the periodic cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific. Typically, La Nina events occur every 3 to 5 years or so, but on occasion can occur over successive years. La Nina represents the cool phase of the El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.

## Indian Express –Places(GSI)-Page 13

### Why Namibia plans to kill hundreds of its majestic wild animals for meat

ALIND CHAUHAN  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

NAMIBIA PLANS to cull hundreds of its most majestic wild animals, including dozens of elephants and hippopotamuses, to provide meat for its 1.4 million people — nearly half the southern African nation's population — who are reeling under the worst drought in a century.

A total 723 animals, including 30 hippopotamuses, 60 buffaloes, 50 impalas, 100 blue wildebeest, 300 zebras, 83 elephants, and 100 elands, a type of antelope, are on the kill list. More than 150 animals have been killed already, and the carcasses have yielded about 63 tonnes of meat.

"This exercise is necessary and is in line with our constitutional mandate where our natural resources are used for the benefit of Namibian citizens," the country's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism said in a press statement on August 26.

#### What has led to drought in Namibia?

Namibia is located in drought-prone southern Africa, and frequently witnesses such events — it had declared national emergencies because of extreme droughts in 2013, 2016 and 2019. But the ongoing drought has been especially widespread and devastating. Juliane Zietler, the country director of the World Wildlife Fund in Namibia, told *The New York Times*:

The drought began in Botswana in October 2023, spread and intensified across Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, and affects most of southern Africa today, according to a report by the European Commission.

The situation is so bad mainly because of El Niño, a weather pattern associated with extreme heat and dry spells in many parts of the world and the ocean. An El Niño event returned after seven years in 2023, leading to above-average temperatures and minimal precipitation across the region. Severe soil moisture deficits and vegetation stress followed, resulting in drought.



An elephant in Botswana, next door to Namibia. *The NYT*

Also, numerous studies have found that with rising temperatures due to climate change, extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have become more frequent and intense.

#### How has the drought impacted Namibia?

Food availability is usually low in Namibia from July through September, and the situation has been made worse by the drought. Staple crops such as maize have dried up, large numbers of livestock have

died, and almost 84% of the country's food reserves are exhausted, a United Nations spokesman said on August 23. As stocks have diminished, prices have skyrocketed, curtailing access to food for a large number of people.

"Between April and June 2024, an estimated 1.2 million people...in Namibia face high levels of acute food insecurity...and require urgent action to reduce food gaps and protect livelihoods. These are the most vulnerable groups...in both urban and rural ar-

reas," the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) said in a report in July. Severe acute malnutrition among children under five has increased, and deaths have been reported in some areas, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has said.

OCHA has also flagged the increased vulnerability of women due to the drought: "As women and girls are required to walk longer distances to collect food and water, their risk of being subjected to gender-based violence also increases."

**How would the culling of wild animals help?**

It is not just for meat that Namibia wants to cull wild animals. The government fears that the drought will force the animals to migrate in search of food and water, which could bring them in conflict with human populations. The country has a significant number of wild animals, including 24,000 elephants, one of the largest populations in the world. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism statement said it also hopes

that culling of some animals would reduce the effect of the drought on wildlife. It would help "in managing the current grazing pressure and water availability...in some parks and communal areas where we feel numbers exceed available grazing and water," the ministry said.

#### Is killing wild animals for meat unusual?

No. Wild animals of various species are hunted for food, sport, or trophies around the world.

Animals such as zebras, blue wildebeest, and impala, which are on Namibia's cull list, are eaten by people in the southern African region, *The NYT* report said.

Rose Mwebaza, director of the United Nations Environment Programme's Africa Office, told *The NYT* that "provided the harvesting of these animals is done using scientifically proven, sustainable methods that consider animal welfare and are in line with both domestic and international commitments and legislation, there should be no cause for concern".

Namibia plans to cull hundreds of its most majestic wild animals, including dozens of elephants and hippopotamuses, to provide meat for its 1.4 million people — nearly half the southern African nation's population — who are reeling under the worst drought in a century.

- Namibia is a vast country with a surface area of 824 268 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Situated on the south-western Atlantic coast of the African sub-continent, it borders Angola and Zambia in the north, South Africa in the south and Botswana and Zimbabwe in the east.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Science and Tech(GSIII)

Ministry of Science & Technology

S&T Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh formally releases new BioE3 policy, hails India as global torch bearer of next Industrial Revolution thanked PM Sh Narendra Modi for his support

BioE3 policy will prove to a milestone not only for bio economy but a game changer for Viksit Bharat @2047

“As India emerges as a Global Biotech Powerhouse, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be hailed across the world as the champion of new Biotech Boom” says Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh

PPP model will be an intrinsic part of BioE3 Policy implementation incentivizing industry to promote employment generation

India's bio economy skyrockets from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to reach \$300 billion by 2030: Dr. Singh

Posted On: 31 AUG 2024 6:22PM by PIB Delhi

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today approved the proposal ‘**BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing**’ of the Department of Biotechnology.
- The salient features of BioE3 policy include innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors. This will accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundry. Along with prioritizing regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth, this policy will facilitate expansion of India’s skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-IR(GSII)

### India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Maldives Sign Charter And MoU For Establishment Of Colombo Security Conclave Secretariat



- India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka have signed the Charter and an MoU for the establishment of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Secretariat in Colombo to address security and stability challenges in the Indian Ocean Region. The signing ceremony was hosted in Colombo by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- The CSC's core objective is to promote regional security by addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern to the Member States. There are five pillars of cooperation under the CSC namely Maritime Safety and Security; Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation; Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime; Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology; and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Health(GSII)

### UN Agencies In Gaza Launch Campaign To Vaccinate 640,000 Children Against Polio



- In West Asia, UN agencies in the Gaza Strip have launched an ambitious campaign to vaccinate 640,000 children against polio
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) said at least 90% of children under 10 must be immunised in a short time frame.
- Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that largely affects children under 5 years of age. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis.