

# DAILY PT POINTERS

25 September, 2024



## The Hindu-IR(GSII)-Page 1

# Zelenskyy meets Modi in U.S., expresses gratitude for efforts towards peace

**Sriram Lakshman**  
NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday, in the afternoon, before departing New York for New Delhi. Mr. Zelenskyy's team had requested the meeting, according to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

There was no discussion on India's purchase of Russian oil, Mr. Misri said as he briefed journalists on Monday. Referring to India's purchase of oil, Mr. Zelenskyy had told Indian journalists in Kyiv last month, that if Indians "change their attitude" towards Russia, the war would end.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Narendra Modi during their meeting in

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the afternoon before departing New York for New Delhi. Mr Zelenskyy's team had requested the meeting.
- The two men last met in Kyiv on August 23 when Mr Modi made a short visit to Ukraine. During Monday's interaction— their third in as many months— they discussed the Russia-Ukraine war and the Ukraine-India bilateral relationship. Government officials were circumspect on Mr Modi's afternoon schedule following his address at the UN's Summit of the, prior to the announcement that the meeting had taken place.



## The Hindu –Governance(GSII)-Page 4

### Centre to launch new project on urban poverty alleviation

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government will soon launch a programme dedicated to urban poverty alleviation, the pilot for which will be set in motion in 25 cities across the country on October 1. These 25 cities include industrial hubs, migrant centres, aspirational districts and port cities.

The pilot, which will span three months, with a preparatory phase of one month to ensure effective implementation, will utilise a Test-Learn-Scale approach, the Union Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The programme is designed to uplift vulnerable groups within the informal sector, including construction workers, gig workers, waste workers, care workers, domestic workers, and transportation workers, who often face occupational, social, and residential vulnerabilities.

**Pilot project will be set in motion in 25 cities across the country on October 1**

“The pilot aims to break the cycle of poverty by providing financial assistance, social protection, and access to credit for micro-enterprises,” the statement said.

Through strategic interventions and a collaborative approach, the proposed programme aims to reshape the livelihood landscape in urban India, ensuring that the benefits of urbanisation are equitably distributed to uplift the most vulnerable sections of society, it added.

Suggestions on designing the contours of the programme were given by 28 States and Union Territories at a workshop held on Monday. The workshop was attended by State Mission Directors, Municipal Commissioners, as well as senior Ministry officials.

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## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 4

### M.P. Cabinet sets MSP for soya bean purchase at ₹4,892

The Hindu Bureau  
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved online registration for procurement of soya bean at the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹4,892 even as various farmer outfits and the Opposition continue to press for an MSP of ₹6,000. The registration period is from September 25 to October 20, and the procurement will be done from October 25 to December 3.

In a statement, the government said, "13.68 lakh metric tonnes of soya bean will be purchased from farmers at the minimum support price of ₹4,892 [as approved by the Centre] per quintal." The statement added that the State government will procure more with its funds if the production exceeds the limit approved for procurement by the Centre.

For about a month now, soya bean procurement has been in the political debate in M.P., which leads the country in production. Farmer organisations, including the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), and the



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cost of production is now more than the government's procurement price.

The State government approved the MSP of ₹4,892 for soya bean a couple of weeks ago after its market price fell close to ₹4,000.

On Monday, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait visited the State and held a tractor rally in Narmadapuram to press for farmers' demands. Saying that the farmers' agitation in national capital New Delhi had lasted over 13 months, Mr. Tikait told the farmers to not give up and also cautioned them against letting political parties take over

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- The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a crucial mechanism through which the government supports farmers by purchasing their crops at a pre-determined price.
- Annually, the Government of India announces MSPs for 22 major agricultural commodities, including 14 Kharif crops, 6 Rabi crops, and 2 commercial crops.

## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 6

### Unemployment rate has not fallen: labour survey

Survey report says there is a minor increase in distribution of workers in agriculture; participation of women in the workforce has improved; unemployment rate is 3.2%, similar to that of last year

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the period between July 2023 and June 2024, released by the Labour Bureau on Monday, reported no major change in the unemployment rate (UR). There is a minor increase in the distribution of workers in agriculture, and the manufacturing sector shows no growth in giving jobs compared with the past years.

The participation of women in the workforce has improved. The Centre had faced criticism for the growing unemployment rate and decrease in the number of women in jobs.

A release by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said that in rural areas, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased from 50.7% in 2017-18 to 63.7% in 2023-24, while for urban areas, it increased from 47.6% to 52%.

"LFPR for males in India increased from 75.8% in 2017-18 to 78.8% in 2023-24 and corresponding in-

#### Stagnant unemployment rates

The chart shows the unemployment rate of India from 2017 to 2023, which has remained stagnant over the last two years



SOURCE: PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2023-24



crease in LFPR for females was from 23.3% to 41.7%," the release said.

The LFPR for Muslim women increased from 15% in 2021-22 to 21.4% in 2023-24. In the case of Hindu women, the participation in workforce increased from 26.1% in 2021-22 to 33.3% in this year. Similarly, among Sikh and Christian women, the LFPR increased from 19.8% to 26.7% and 34.2% to 38.3%, respectively.

In rural areas, the unemployment rate decreased from 5.3% in 2017-18 to 2.5% in 2023-24, while for urban areas, it decreased from 7.7% to 5.1%.

"UR for male in India decreased from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24 and corresponding decrease for female was from 5.6% to 3.2%," the Centre said. The overall unemployment rate is 3.2%, similar to last year.

#### Grim picture

Experts said the annual survey gave a grim picture of the employment scenario.

"Grim situation has become grimmer. The annual report is revealing it," said labour economist Santosh Mehrotra. "There is no improvement in the unemployment scenario, neither

in youth unemployment nor in overall unemployment," he said.

He said the Centre continued to claim that the LFPR and Worker Population Ratio were increasing. "It is because of the increase in workers in agriculture. This also means that unpaid family labour has also increased and the PLFS counts this unpaid family labour as employment. The participation of workers in agriculture share has gone up for the fourth year in a row. This is shocking," he said.

Professor Mehrotra said the increase in workforce in agriculture meant that the process of people looking for non-farm jobs reversed and it had not stopped.

As the workers' participation in manufacturing is still 11.4%, he said, the share of manufacturing in providing employment is not increasing.

"In 2012, it was 12.8% and it ever recovered in the last 10 years. The contribution of construction work has gone back to 12%. The sector, which revived, is not showing any buoyancy," he said.

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- "LFPR for males in India increased from 75.8% in 2017-18 to 78.8% in 2023-24 and corresponding increase in LFPR for females was from 23.3% to 41.7%



## The Hindu-Science and Tech(GSIII)-Page10

### What are retractions and why do they matter?

What is a retraction index? Why do researchers use potentially duplicated or manipulated work?

Atanu Biswas

#### The story so far:

According to the 'Retraction Watch' database, an Indian scientist at an institute in Lucknow has racked up 45 retractions. It also states that another researcher at a university in Kolkata published 300 scientific papers in a year, which is nearly a paper a day and impossible. This individual had six papers retracted, which cover an array of disciplines including chemistry and virology. Paper retractions are becoming more common worldwide even as the research misconduct problem is worsening in India.

#### What are retractions?

A retraction is a mechanism that kicks in when a scientific paper published in an academic journal is found to be so flawed as to merit being removed from scientific literature. The academic community is

retracted for an honest error but much less forgiving when a paper is pulled because it contains deliberately manipulated material. For example, the case of John Darsee, a young Harvard University cardiology researcher, stunned the academic community in the 1980s. He had over 80 papers retracted for spreading "inaccuracies and falsehoods".

Scientific fraud is surprisingly endemic: the list with Darsee includes Jan Hendrik Schön, Brian Wansink, Hwang Woo-suk, and of recent Ranga Dias as well, among others. Even Nobel laureates are not spared. Gregg Semenza, a professor at Johns Hopkins University and winner of the 2019 medicine Nobel Prize, has had 12 papers retracted over potentially duplicated or manipulated images.

#### How often are papers retracted?

Between 2020 and 2022, 2.5 times more papers were retracted than they were between 2017 and 2019. The reasons for retraction include plagiarism, editorial

use of paper mills. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many publishers had fast-tracked the peer-review process for papers they received from scientists. As a result, some 10,000 papers had to be retracted in 2023 because of quality and/or data issues. The number was only around 1,600 in 2013. In 2023, a German neuropsychologist named Bernhard Sabel published the results of using a fake-paper detector he had built: he found that a third of 5,000 neuroscience papers published in 2020 likely had plagiarised and/or falsified content.

#### What is the retraction index?

A journal's retraction index is the the number of retractions in a given time period multiplied by 1,000 and divided by the total number of published articles, according to a definition provided by scientists Ferric Fang and Arturo Casadevall in a September 2011 paper. They also showed that there's a greater chance of a paper being retracted from a

low-impact one. 'Impact' refers to the impact factor: the average number of times a paper was cited in last two years.

#### THE GIST

##### Why do scientists falsify papers?

Paper mills are enterprises that churn out fake or low-quality journal papers and sell them to scientists. Thousands of papers published in academic journals worldwide have been linked to Russian, Iranian, and Chinese paper mills.

One reason they're becoming more prevalent is because of research institutes' desire to improve their national and international university rankings, where the primary criterion is research output. In today's academic setting, one's paper count can determine one's chances of being promoted, securing grants and getting awards. PhD students are sometimes required to publish papers to graduate. This "publish or perish" culture encourages paper mills.

Misconduct makes scientists lose trust in one another and in literature. In a 2000 article in the journal *Nature*, H.N.J. Arst wrote, "All honest scientists are victims of scientists who commit misconduct." Retractions are thus a way for science to correct its mistakes.

Reducing the prevalence of misconduct is an open problem in research policymaking. It needs to answer questions like: can journals detect bad papers with AI and what is a way to evaluate research quality over quantity?

Atanu Biswas is professor of statistics,

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- A retraction is a mechanism that kicks in when a scientific paper published in an academic journal is found to be so flawed as to merit being removed from scientific literature. The academic community is often understanding when a paper is retracted for an honest error but much less forgiving when a paper is pulled because it contains deliberately manipulated material.

## The Hindu-Places in news (GSI)-Page15

### Tuvalu fights to keep maritime boundaries amid alarming rise in sea levels

Reuters  
FONGAFALE

Tuvalu and its 11,000 people, who live on nine atolls scattered across the Pacific, are running out of time. NASA scientists project that by 2050, daily tides will submerge half of the main atoll of Funafuti, home to 60% of Tuvalu's residents, where villages cling to a narrow strip of land.

Tuvaluans rely on rain-water tanks and a central raised garden for growing vegetables, because salt-water inundation has ruined groundwater, affecting crops. A landmark climate and security treaty with Australia announced in 2023 provides a pathwa

ly to migrate to Australia, starting next year. Maani Maani, 32, an IT worker in the main town of Fongafale said, "It is a very hard decision to make. To leave a country, you leave the culture you were born with, and culture is everything – family, your sister, your brother."

#### Buying time

For now, Tuvalu is attempting to buy time. Construction of sea walls and barriers to guard against worsening storm surges is occurring on Funafuti. Tuvalu has built 17.3 acres of artificial land, and is planning more, which it hopes will stay above the tides until 2100.

Having secured an exit

valu's diplomats are fighting for legal certainty about what happens when a low-lying island state is swallowed by the sea. Under Tuvalu's plan to secure such legal assurance, some residents would stay as long as possible, ensuring a continued presence to help underpin the nation's enduring sovereignty, according to two Tuvalu officials and the terms of the treaty with Australia.

Dry land is another key requirement for statehood, so Tuvalu wants to change the law of the sea. On Wednesday, the United Nations General Assembly is scheduled to hold a high-level meeting on sea-level rise, where Prime Minister Falei Teo will seek support



**Shoring up:** A sea wall being constructed at the Port of Funafuti in Tuvalu as seen on September 6. REUTERS

valu's campaign to have its maritime boundaries and statehood recognised as permanent, Tuvalu officials said.

Mr. Teo will speak at the opening plenary, according to Tuvalu's permanent

statehood would continue where a nation's land was totally or partially submerged by rising sea levels caused by climate change.

The commission said some unspecified members had argued against amending the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, preferring other avenues.

If the international community were to recognise Tuvalu's maritime boundaries as permanent, it would provide an economic lifeline, Deputy Prime Minister Panapasi Nelesone said in an interview.

#### Neighbours' support

Tuvalu's neighbours – the 18 members of the Pacific Islands Forum – are on board. They have declared

boundaries are fixed. And the treaty with Australia says "the statehood and sovereignty of Tuvalu will continue".

Fifteen governments, including some in Asia and Europe, have also signed bilateral communiques with Tuvalu agreeing that its boundaries will not be changed by sea-level rise. Tuvalu officials and lawmakers said.

But of the foreign jurisdictions that operate fishing fleets in the Pacific, only Taiwan, Tuvalu's diplomatic ally, and Fiji, its neighbour, have signed such communiques. Tuvalu officials say this makes them uneasy; they worry about future illegal fishing and the resultant loss of

- Tuvalu and its 11,000 people, who live on nine atolls scattered across the Pacific, are running out of time.
- Tuvalu is an island country in the west-central Pacific Ocean. It sits about halfway between Australia and Hawaii. Its neighbours include Kiribati, to the north, and Fiji, to the south. It is made up of a chain of 9 small coral islands. The islands are low lying. Many have large lagoons and are surrounded by coral reefs.

# India to launch its first mission to Venus in 2028: Everything you need to know

Venus is often called Earth's twin because it is similar in mass, density, and size. Therefore, studying Venus may offer scientists clues about the evolution of Earth.

The Union Cabinet last week approved India's first mission to Venus which ISRO aims to launch in March 2028. This is the country's second interplanetary mission after the Mars Orbiter Mission launched in 2013.

The Venus mission is meant to study the planet from an orbit around it. The mission will carry scientific instruments from India and abroad to examine the surface and sub-surface of Venus, its atmosphere, its ionosphere, and its interaction with the Sun.

### **Why is it important to study Venus?**

Venus is often called Earth's twin because it is similar in mass, density, and size. Therefore, studying Venus may offer scientists clues about the evolution of Earth. Notably, Venus is thought to have had water at some point in its history but has now become a dry and dusty planet.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-IR(GSII)

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

### India attends Ministerial Meeting of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity

IPEF partners welcome upcoming entry into force of the Clean Economy Agreement, Fair Economy Agreement, and IPEF Overarching Agreement under Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity

IPEF partners commit to continued progress at virtual Ministerial Meeting

Posted On: 24 SEP 2024 3:47PM by PIB Delhi

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal along with 13 other IPEF Ministers virtually attended the third Ministerial meeting focused on IPEF Pillar II, III, and IV.
- IPEF was launched on 23 May 2022 at Tokyo, Japan, comprising 14 countries – Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and USA. The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic engagement and cooperation among partner countries with the goal of advancing growth, economic stability and prosperity in the region.
- The framework is structured around four pillars relating to Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV). Agreement on Supply Chain Resilience (Pillars II) was signed in November 2023 and is in force since February 2024. Agreement on Clean Economy (Pillar-III), Agreement on Fair Economy (Pillar- IV) and the IPEF

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-IR(GSII)

### India Continues To Be Biggest Trading Partner Of Nepal



- India continues to be the largest trading partner of Nepal. According to Nepal Trade Statistics released by the Department of Customs, Nepal's trade deficit stood at NPR 237.45 billion till mid-September of fiscal year 2024-25. Nepal has a trade deficit with more than 100 countries out of 145 countries with whom Nepal has trade relations.
- Nepal continues to have the highest trade deficit with its two neighbours India and China to the amount of 144.67 billion and 51.80 billion respectively. Nepal exports Hydroelectric power, resin, agricultural produce, yarn, pashmina shawls, hide and skins, handicrafts items, silver and gold jewellery and other items to India. while Nepal imports petroleum products, Chemical fertilizers, salt, sugar, rice, vehicles, copper, cotton and other items from India.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-IR(GSII)

### India-Oman Joint Military Exercise AL-NAJAH 5 Advances With Focus On Combat Skills And Interoperability



- The India-Oman joint military exercise, AL-NAJAH 5 – 2024, currently underway at the Rabkoot Training Area in Oman, is in full swing. The exercise, which began on 13th September, will continue until 26th September. The Indian Army contingent, comprising 60 personnel, is represented by a battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment, along with personnel from other arms and services.
- In the initial days, training focused on combat first aid, casualty evacuation, weapon handling of both armies' weapons, and counter-drone drills to enhance interoperability, reflecting the latest trends in modern warfare. Subsequent training emphasized Assault Rifle, Sniper, Pistol, and LMG firing to simulate their application in actual operations, focusing on reflex firing and close-quarter battle.