

DAILY PT POINTERS

26 September, 2024



Indian Express-IR(GSII)-Page 1

CONTOURS OF REDEPLOYMENT POSSIBLE AFTER NEXT ROUND OF MILITARY TALKS

India and China make 'progress' on pending LAC issues in eastern Ladakh

Both sides explore solution that factors in pre-standoff positions, to address issues in Arunachal

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

INDIA AND China are learnt to have made "significant progress" in narrowing their gap on pending issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. This includes exploring the contours of a possible solution that factors in their respec-

tive pre-April 2020 positions while agreeing to address existing issues in Arunachal Pradesh, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources said this might imply that Indian troops, whose access to certain patrolling points along the LAC were blocked either by Chinese troops or due to the implementation of the buffer zones created in the backdrop of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
E At centre of dispute

FRICTION POINTS such as Galwan Valley, north and south banks of Pangong Tso, Gogra-Hot Springs area have seen some resolution with buffer zones. Legacy issues of Depsang Plains and Demchok remain — troops at Depsang Plains were blocked from accessing patrol points.

Disengagement one part of problem, main issue is patrolling: Jaishankar

YOSHITA SINGH
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25

THE INDIA-CHINA relationship would influence the future of the entire world, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said while making it clear that peace needed to be restored on the border first

for bilateral ties to move forward. Addressing an event hosted by the Asia Society and the Asia Society Policy Institute here on Tuesday, Jaishankar noted India's "difficult history" with China and said the "parallel rise" of the two countries presented "a very, very unique problem".

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- India and China are learnt to have made "significant progress" in narrowing their gap on pending issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. This includes exploring the contours of a possible solution that factors in their respective pre-April 2020 positions while agreeing to address existing issues in Arunachal Pradesh
- this might imply that Indian troops, whose access to certain patrolling points along the LAC were blocked either by Chinese troops or due to the implementation of the buffer zones created in the backdrop of disengagement at specific friction points, might be close to accessing them again

Indian Express –Environment(GSIII)-Page 15

Two years of Project Cheetah: Status report and the road ahead

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

PROJECT CHEETAH, which saw the introduction of the African sub-species of the big cat in India, completed two years on September 17.

The ambitious project has two overarching objectives. First, to establish a stable, breeding population of cheetahs in central India. Two, to use cheetahs as an umbrella species to restore open natural ecosystems such as scrubs, savannahs, grasslands, and degraded forests.

**EXPLAINED
CONSERVATION**

Two years on, Project Cheetah has seen marginal success. Many challenges remain, as well as questions regarding its long-term outlook.

24 cheetahs survive

The project began with the intercontinental translocation of African cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. The

translocation took place in two batches of eight and 12 cheetahs.

These cheetahs were initially kept in soft-release bomas—small enclosures inside the national park to get them adapted to the local environment. Although confined to an area of roughly 1 sq km, the cheetahs hunted live prey inside these bomas. While some cheetahs were subsequently released in the wild, they were eventually brought back into the enclosures. Mating within the translocated cohort of cheetahs led to the birth of 17 cubs.

Of the 20 translocated cheetahs, eight have died due to a variety of reasons, from attacks during mating to septicæmia caused by tick infestation under the cheetahs' radio collars. Of the 17 cubs, five have perished. Currently, 24 cheetahs (12 adults and 12 cubs) survive.

The next batch of 6-8 African cheetahs are supposed to be translocated to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, also in Madhya Pradesh.



Cheetah with her cubs in Kuno National Park. Project Cheetah Annual Report 2023-24

Cheetahs still not in wild

The project has seen marginal success, mainly on two fronts. First, with respect to the successful breeding of the African cheetahs in a new climate and ecology and the

survival of 12 out of the 17 cubs born. Second, Pawan and Veera, who were released into the wild last December, spent a considerable amount of time in a free range, and travelled far north of Kuno, even entering Rajasthan.

However, the project faced a significant setback in August this year when Pawan was found dead due to suspected drowning (the autopsy report has not yet been made public). After this incident, all 24 surviving cheetahs were put in enclosures. This has raised questions about the cheetahs' capabilities to establish their own habitat in the wild. Authorities say more cheetahs will be released after the monsoon.

Conservation scientists, however, have criticised the delay in releasing the cheetahs into the wild and questioned the lack of transparency in the matter. Ravi Chellam, a Bengaluru-based wildlife biologist and conservation scientist, cited a Namibian policy which states that large wild carnivores should not be kept in captivity for more than three months. Beyond this period, the carnivore should either be euthanised or held in

captivity permanently.

Barring Veera, who is now in an enclosure, and the now-dead Pawan, all the other cheetahs have been in enclosures for more than a year now. This is contrary to the government's own plan which said the cheetahs would be released in the wild after a 4-5 week acclimatisation period, according to Chellam.

Problem of inadequate prey

A deficit in the prey base is one of the biggest challenges faced by the project. The project's latest annual report has found that the density of chital, the primary prey for cheetahs (and leopards), has declined from 23.43 animals per sq km in 2021 to 17.5 animals per sq km in 2024. The current population of chital in Kuno National Park is about 6,700.

This is far less than the numbers required to sustain the 91 leopards and 12 adult cheetahs in the park. The leopard population would need about 23,600 prey animals and cheetahs about 3,120 prey animals annually.

According to Chellam, the lack of prey re-

flects poorly on the project management given that in 2022, Kuno was specifically chosen due to its prey density. He said, "What has happened to drastically change the ground situation in such a short period of time?"

Road ahead

Experience from the project so far has shown that the free-ranging cheetahs often ventured far and wide, crossing state boundaries or entering human habitats. This has brought interstate landscape conservation plans under the spotlight.

Authorities aim to conserve the interstate Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscape, which includes several forest patches outside sanctuaries parks and tiger reserves, spread over parts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The step has been spelt out as the way forward to establish a population of 60-70 cheetahs in the region.

However, this landscape's conservation would be a Herculean task as it would involve restoring the habitats adequately and minimising the risks to cheetahs before they can populate the space.

- Project Cheetah, which saw the introduction of the African sub-species of the wild cat in India, **completed two years on September 17.**
- The ambitious project has two overarching objectives. First, to establish a stable, breeding population of cheetahs in central India. Two, to use cheetahs as an umbrella species to restore open natural ecosystems such as scrubs, savannahs, grasslands, and degraded forests.
- Two years in, Project Cheetah has seen marginal successes. Many challenges remain, as well as questions regarding its long-term outlook. Here is a status check.
- Project Cheetah began with the intercontinental translocation of African cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. This translocation took place in two batches of eight and then 12 cheetahs.

Indian Express –History(GSI)-Page 15

Deendayal Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism, 'basic philosophy' of the BJP

YASHEE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

WEDNESDAY MARKED the 108th birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916-1988) whose philosophy is among the most important guiding principles of the BJP.

Upadhyaya was a *pracharak* of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and a founder leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), a party that existed from 1951 to 1977, when it merged with the Janata Party. In 1980, former members of the BJS left Janata and formed the BJP.

Upadhyaya, who was fondly referred to as 'Panditji' by his associates and followers, was among the tallest thinkers of India's right wing. In 1964-65, Upadhyaya propounded his main political and social idea, Integral Humanism, which, according to the BJP's constitution, is the party's 'basic philosophy'.

The doctrine of Integral Humanism was born from Upadhyaya's desire to have

of the newly independent nation, as opposed to the many Western 'isms'.

Upadhyaya's philosophy

At its core, Integral Humanism is about unity and harmony among the various components that make up an individual, and among individuals and society as a whole. Integral Humanism sees an individual as made up of body, mind, intelligence, and soul, and considers the development and fulfillment of each as important.

A cornerstone of Integral Humanism is the concept of the four *purusharthas*, or areas of human effort — *dharma*, *artha*, *kama*, and *moksha*. "It is important to note that Panditji always emphasised that he did not invent these concepts; he drew upon the wisdom of ancient Indian philosophy to formulate his doctrine," BJP leader Dr Sanjay Paswan, who served as Minister in the government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, told *The Indian Express*.



Deendayal Upadhyaya lights the lamp at a Jana Sangh meeting, *Express Archive*

As independent India contemplated its future and the path ahead for the nation, there was a feeling among some patriots that it should be guided by indigenous sys-

tem political philosophies.

On April 22, 1965, Upadhyaya said in a lecture in Mumbai (then Bombay): "Among the variousisms that affected the West, the principal ones were nationalism, democracy, and socialism... Every now and then, apart from these, the ideals of world peace and world unity were also advocated. All these are good ideals... But by itself, each stands opposed to the rest in practice. Nationalism poses a threat to world peace. Democracy and capitalism join hands to give a free reign to exploitation. Socialism replaced capitalism and brought with it an end to democracy and individual freedom."

Thus, these ideals were far from perfect, and Bharat, with its rich history of political thought, should not ape them blindly, he said.

The four purusharthas

Upadhyaya described the difference in Indian and Western ways of thinking thus: "The first characteristic of Bharatiya culture is that it looks upon life as an integrated

primarily from its tendency to think of life in sections and then to attempt to put them together by patchwork."

While many believe that Indian philosophy is overtly focused on the soul, the Bharatiya way of thought gives equal importance to the body, mind, intelligence, and the soul — and at the level of the individual, all four must be nourished for a truly meaningful life, he said.

In terms of policymaking and public life, he spoke of the four *purusharthas*: *dharma*, *artha*, *kama*, and *moksha*.

"*Purushartha* means effort, which defies a man. The longings for *dharma*, *artha*, *kama*, and *moksha* are inborn in man, and the satisfaction of these gives him joy (*ananda*). Of these four efforts too, we have thought in an integrated way.

"*Artha* includes what are known as political and economic policies. According to the ancients, it used to include Justice and Punishment as well as Economics. *Kama* relates to the satisfaction of various natural

fundamental principles and ethical codes, in accordance with which all the activities in respect of *Artha* and *Kama* are to be carried out, and all the goals thereof to be achieved. This alone will ensure progress in an integrated and harmonious manner, and lead ultimately to *Moksha*," Upadhyaya said in Mumbai on April 23, 1965.

Deendayal and BJP

The BJP says on its website that "all these Indian thoughts should not be issues of sermons but of politics. The policies of the country should be made on their basis."

Dr Paswan said that for India to truly become a *Vishwa Guru*, it has to take the lead in the sphere of thoughts and ideas — where Upadhyaya's contributions are especially important. "Bharat may survive on vote bank politics but will thrive only through thought bank politics. Hence, we need to make sure that our institutions are guided by the basis of the wisdom contained in our ancient texts, which Pandit Upadhyaya so

- September 25 marks the 108th birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, whose philosophies are part of the guiding principles of the BJP.
- Upadhyaya was a lifelong RSS *pracharak* and among the founding members of its political arm, the Bharatiya Jan Sangh. Among the tallest thinkers of India's right wing, Upadhyaya propounded the idea of Integral Humanism, which, according to the BJP's constitution, is its "basic philosophy".
- The doctrine of 'integral humanism' was born from the desire to have 'uniquely Indian' ideas guiding the journey of the newly independent nation, as opposed to the many Western 'isms'.

Indian Express –Economy(GSIII)-Page 15

To push clean energy transition, India joins US-led Minerals Security Finance Network

Securing critical minerals in focus amid an overwhelming dependence on China for rare earths

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

INDIA IS now formally a part of the Minerals Security Finance Network, a US-led initiative aiming to strengthen cooperation among members to secure supply chains for critical minerals. The announcement, made by the US State Department on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly on September 23, involved a pact entered by 14 countries and the European Union. The Minerals Security Finance Network (MSFN) is a new initiative that stems from the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), a framework established by the US in 2022. India was inducted to the MSP in June 2023.

Creating synergies

The strengthening of the MSP with an additional offshoot in the MSFN comes at a time when there is an overwhelming dependence on countries such as China for critical resources, especially with re-

EXPLAINED E Catalysing investments

IN JUNE 2023, India had been inducted into the Minerals Security Partnership, a US-led collaboration of these 14 countries that aimed to catalyse public and private investment in critical mineral supply chains globally.

sector, how they can work together to meet this challenge," the Joint Statement on Establishment of the Minerals Security Partnership Finance Network said. "The energy transition is at risk. We need more production capacity for critical minerals that need to come online – many of these supply chains are concentrated in one or two countries and lack resilience," US Undersecretary of State Jose W Fernandez said during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

conversion of a large part of public and private transport to electric vehicles. This, alongside a concerted electronics manufacturing and semiconductor push, underlines the need to secure the supply of critical minerals.

The proposal to onboard India in the MSP initiative last year came after a strong diplomatic push mounted by New Delhi, given that there was considerable disquiet within sections of the Union government over the country not finding a place in the strategic partnership that was aimed at reducing dependency on China for securing critical minerals. The concerns grew after the partnership, originally floated mid 2022, was expanded in early 2023 to include a new member, Italy.

The MSP is learnt to have weighed the possibility of collaborative work on some 150-odd projects and shortlisted a dozen projects where members are likely to commence work, including fostering a critical minerals and metals cooperation forum for sharing of expertise, developing better materials and in the de-

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The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 8

How global warming affects forecasting

Existing models cannot reproduce monsoon trends in the past half century and are considered unreliable for the future. Meteorologists will need to figure out if the predictability of natural modes such as hurricanes, El Niño, La Niña, and the Indian Ocean Dipole will decrease as the warming is relentless, if not accelerating

FULL CONTEXT

Raahu Murtugudde

With the record warming of 2023-2024, we are getting a clearer picture of what global warming does. The medley of extremes strewn across the planet has covered the gamut from deadly heatwaves to devastating cyclones and floods, from droughts to wildfires.

According to some estimates, the world has already crossed the 1.5° C warming threshold (that is, the earth's average surface temperature has increased by more than 1.5° C over the pre-industrial average). The caveat is that global temperatures are an estimate produced from a combination of data and climate models. As the 1.5° C limit is part of a demand by the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, scientists have built models to predict what environmental disturbances crossing this threshold could invite. However, and more importantly, it is not yet clear how long the warming has to remain above the threshold for the projected impacts to materialise.

The spectacular show that nature has put up during 2023-2024 is also a stark reminder that we are far from able to predict the weather and the climate with the requisite skills and spatial-temporal scales to manage disasters effectively. The loss of lives, property, and infrastructure continue to traumatise humanity,



Blazing heat: Residents collect drinking water from a tanker amid a water crisis in Delhi, on a hot summer day in New Delhi on June 6. SHEKHAR PUSHPAKAR

THE GIST

Meteorologists predicted the 2023 El Niño as early as in the spring of that year, which is remarkable. But the level of warming during 2023-2024 has caught them, and the public, by surprise because it was much higher than expected from the addition of the so-called mini-global warming by the El Niño to the ongoing background warming.

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For the coming decade or two, projection uncertainties depend on the model uncertainties themselves plus natural variabilities in a warming world.

Global warming

The global average temperature for the last year was the highest ever documented, at 1.83° C above pre-industrial levels, according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service

predictions, but as the adage goes, hope is not a strategy. We have our work cut out for us. We obviously need to continue to improve our models and build on the fact that models are already capable of

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China tests intercontinental missile in the Pacific Ocean

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China said it test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile on Wednesday, firing it into the Pacific Ocean in its first such exercise in decades.

The launch sparked protests from other countries in the region, with China's neighbour Japan saying it had not been given advance notice and expressing "serious concern" about Beijing's military build-up.

Growing arsenal

Beijing has stepped up its nuclear development and boosted defence spending in recent years, with the Pentagon warning last October that China was developing its arsenal more



Thorny issue: The launch sparked protests from other countries in the region such as Japan, Australia and New Zealand. FILE PHOTO

quickly than the U.S. had anticipated.

China held more than 500 operational nuclear warheads as of May 2023 and is likely to have more than 1,000 by 2030, it said.

Japan said it was given "no notice from the Chinese side in advance", with a government spokesman

adding that Beijing's military build-up was a "serious concern".

Australia said it was seeking "an explanation" over the launch. New Zealand also said the launch of the missile, which landed in the South Pacific, was "an unwelcome and concerning development".

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

10 Years of Make in India

Transforming India into a Global Manufacturing Powerhouse

Posted On: 25 SEP 2024 9:29PM

- Launched on September 25, 2014, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the "Make in India" initiative is completing 10 years as a pivotal step in India's nation-building efforts. On the occasion, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed in his blog that “Today is an occasion to salute each and every one of you who has made this initiative a roaring success.
- Each of you is a pioneer, visionary and innovator, whose tireless efforts have fuelled the success of ‘Make in India’ and thereby made our nation the focus of global attention as well as curiosity. It is the collective drive, relentless in nature, which has transformed a dream into a powerful movement. The impact of ‘Make in India’ shows that Bharat is unstoppable.”

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

India becomes 3rd Most Powerful Nation in Asia, Surpasses Japan in Asia Power Index

Posted On: 25 SEP 2024 10:27AM

- In a major shift, India surpassed Japan to become the third-largest power in the Asia Power Index, reflecting its increasing geopolitical stature. This achievement is driven by India's dynamic growth, youthful population, and expanding economy, solidifying its position as a leading force in the region.
- One of the most significant findings in the 2024 Asia Power Index is India's steady rise in the regional power rankings. Witnessing a gradual rise, India is looking to achieve its full potential and exercise its influence in the region.
- The Asia Power Index, launched by the Lowy Institute in 2018, is an annual measure of power dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region. It evaluates 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific, examining their ability to shape and respond to the external environment

Indian Express-Governance(GSII)

Clause 6 of Assam Accord

CM meets AASU leaders on implementing 52 recommendations of Justice Biplab Sarma committee on safeguards for 'Assamese people' in Assam Accord, but 15 major issues remain in Centre's domain

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 25

AFTER A meeting with representatives of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) on Wednesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma set the ball rolling for the implementation of 52 recommendations of the Justice Biplab Sarma Committee regarding Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, as announced by the Assam government earlier this month.

This comes more than four years after the Centre-appointed high-level committee finalised its report in February 2020.

Notably, 15 key recommendations of the committee will not be implemented for the time being. These, the chief minister said, will require Constitutional amendments to be implemented. "We will take up these matters with the Centre at the right forum," he posted on X on Wednesday.

What is Clause 6 of Assam Accord? What is the Biplab Sarma committee report?

The historic Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement between the Rajiv Gandhi-led Union government and the leadership of the Assam Movement, primarily the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), which was signed in 1985. The accord ended the six-year-long agitation in Assam against the entry of Bangladeshi migrants into the state.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma after the meeting with representatives of AASU on Wednesday. Screenshot/ @himantabiswa

by the committee was that the definition of "Assamese people", for the purpose of implementing Clause 6, should include "Indigenous Tribals", "Other Indigenous Communities of Assam", "Indian citizens residing in the territory of Assam on or before January 1, 1951" and their descendants, and "Indigenous Assamese" people. Based on this, the committee made several recommendations for reservations for "Assamese people", including in Parliament, the state Assembly, local bodies, and jobs.

What recommendations of the report will the Assam government implement?

Chief Minister Sarma said that the state

are limited to them alone;

- Launching a time-bound, three year programme to allot land titles to "Assamese people" who have occupied a certain piece of land for decades, but are without possession of land documents;

- Carrying out a special survey of *char* areas (riverine regions along the Brahmaputra), and for newly created *chars* to be treated as government land, in which river erosion-affected people should get priority in allotment;

LANGUAGE

- Keeping Assamese as the official language throughout the state as per the 1960 Assam Official Language Act "with provisions

Schedule Areas – namely the Bodoland Territorial Council, the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council – will decide whether to implement the 52 recommendations. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides autonomous tribal councils in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram certain legislative and judicial autonomy.

Which are the recommendations that the Assam government has left out?

Some of the most sensitive recommendations by the committee, however, do not find mention in the 52 points listed by the state government. Assam Congress president Bhupen Borah recently referred to these as the "soul" of the committee's report.

Among them are the introduction of an Inner Line Permit for entry into Assam as is in place in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram, as well as numerous reservations for "Assamese people". The latter include 80-100% reservation in Assam's seats in Parliament, and the same proportion reserved in the state Assembly and local bodies; 80-100% reservation in Assam government jobs; and 70-100% reservations in vacancies arising in undertakings run in partnership between the Assam government and private companies. There was also a recommendation for the creation of an Upper House (the Legislative Council of Assam) which would be completely

- Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday assured that most recommendations of a high-level committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985 that seeks to give more protection to indigenous people of the state will be implemented in a time-bound action plan.
- The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 amongst **Union of India, Govt. of Assam, All Assam Student of Union, All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad.**
- To implement the various Clauses of Assam Accord a new Department has been established in the name of **"Implementation of Assam Accord Department"** during the year 1986.
- The Assam Accord's Clause 6 says, "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."