

DAILY PT POINTERS

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2024



The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

Information on CAA beneficiaries is not readily available, says MHA

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said information on applicants who became Indian citizens under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 is not readily available.

The Ministry, while responding to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by *The Hindu*, said “only readily available information may be provided”. The reply, dated October 3, added that the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) “is not required to create or compile the information for supplying to the applicant under the RTI Act, 2005”.

the RTI application sought to know the total number of applications received on indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in, persons who received citizenship under the CAA, and pending applications.

‘No provision’

Earlier, on April 15, in response to another RTI application, the MHA had said it did not have the provision to maintain a record of the number of applications received under the CAA.

Responding to an RTI plea by Maharashtra resident Ajay Bose regarding the total number of CAA applications, the MHA had said “the records are not being maintained as desired by you because the Citizenship Act, 1955, Ci-

2019, and the rules made do not have the provision to maintain records of citizenship applications received. Further, as per the RTI Act, 2005, CPIO is not authorised to create information. Hence, the information sought may be treated as NIL”.

The exact number of beneficiaries is not known. While discussing the legislation in the Rajya Sabha on December 11, 2019, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said “lakhs and crores” of people would benefit from the law.

However, the Director of the Intelligence Bureau had deposed before a parliamentary committee that around 31,000 people

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said information on applicants who became Indian citizens under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 is not readily available.
- In December 2019, the Parliament passed an amendment to The Citizenship Act, 1955 (1955 Act) introducing a new proviso to Section 2(1)(b) which defines “illegal migrants.” Accordingly, persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian communities from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, and whom the Central government has exempted under the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, or the Foreigners Act, 1946, were not to be treated as “illegal migrants” and would instead be eligible for citizenship under the 1955 Act. In essence, the amendment relaxed the eligibility criteria for certain classes of migrants from three neighbouring Muslim-majority countries on religious lines.

The Hindu-Health(GSII)-Page 6

Tele mental health assistance to reach Puducherry soon

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry will soon be covered under the National Tele Mental Health Programme of India and offer Tele MANAS service. Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States or Tele MANAS, which was started in 2022, seeks to function as a comprehensive, integrated,



The Ministry says that within a year, Tele MANAS has got 3,51,454 calls. GETTY IMAGES

Overall, less than 3% of total complaints have been

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- an overview of the type of complaints on the helpline shows that the top four complaints here relate to sleep disturbances (14%), sadness of mood (14%), stress (11%) and anxiety (9%). Currently, Tele MANAS services are available across 34 States/Union Territories in 20 languages. The Ministry added that within a year the programme has got over 3,51,454 calls.
- Globally, Tele MANAS is one of the largest deployments of a digital, phone-based mental health initiative in a country. “Privacy considerations are threaded into the platform’s operation,” said the report adding these measures have been incorporated at various levels, including data storage, access controls, and caller-specific protocols.

The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 10



The blue-blooded sea creature on Odisha's coastline

Horseshoe crabs have been around for millions of years, but their habitats are rapidly being degraded. While scientists have long begun suggesting to track their movements and study their behavior as the beaches they come to rest on...

Scientists have been studying the horseshoe crab for decades, and only now are they beginning to understand its true value. The blue-blooded sea creature has been around for millions of years, but their habitats are rapidly being degraded. While scientists have long begun suggesting to track their movements and study their behavior as the beaches they come to rest on...

The horseshoe crab is one of the oldest living species on Earth. It has a long history of being used in traditional Chinese medicine. Its blood is used to produce a vaccine for meningitis. The crab is also a source of chitin, which is used in the production of various drugs. The horseshoe crab is also a source of calcium, which is used in the production of various supplements.



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- Horseshoe crabs have been around for millions of years, but their habitats are increasingly being degraded.
- India is home to two species of horseshoe crabs — *Tachypleus gigas* and *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* (mangrove) — and both the species are found along the northeastern coast of India, especially along the Odisha and West Bengal coast
- The horseshoe crab is one of the oldest living species, having remained morphologically unchanged for millions of years. It is renowned for its robust immune system, and its blood is crucial for producing rapid diagnostic reagents. Additionally, all injectables and medicines are tested using horseshoe crab blood.

The Hindu –GS 3(Economy)-Page 14

Can India escape middle-income trap?

How does the World Bank define the threshold for middle-income economies? Why is state intervention considered crucial for breaking the middle-income trap? What lessons can be drawn from South Korea and Chile? What challenges does India face in balancing state intervention with democratic values?

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

The World Development Report 2024 – authored by the World Bank – calls attention to the phenomenon of the “middle income” trap, or the slowing down of growth rates as incomes increase. The World Bank estimates a stagnation of income per capita when economies reach a level of per capita incomes 11% of that of the U.S., hindering their journey to high income status. Over the last 34 years, only 34 middle-income economies – defined as economies with per capita incomes between \$1,136 and \$3,845 – have transitioned to higher income levels.

The WDR details the policies and strategies necessary to break out of the trap based on the development experiences of those countries that did manage the transition. It highlights the importance of the “3i” approach: investment, infusion, and innovation. Economies must invest, ensure the infusion of new global technologies, and develop an environment conducive to domestic innovation. This is no easy task and requires nimble and responsive state policy. In the modern economy, there are plenty of headwinds that India must overcome to successfully navigate the middle-income trap.

Role of the state

GETTY IMAGES

Challenges facing India

The power of billionaires in the Indian economy has increased, and they are seen as being close to the state, with the state unable – or unwilling – to ensure high rates of investment from domestic capital. The manufacturing sector has stagnated, and there has been a reversal of the process of structural transformation, with employment increasing in agriculture and in low-productive forms following the pandemic.

The growth of the aggregate economy is not being reflected on the ground. While the government estimates a real GDP growth of around 7% in recent years, wages have not kept up. According to the PLFS, nominal wages for regular wage workers at the all-India level between April and June 2023-24 has only grown at around 5%, and that of casual workers at roughly 7%. With an inflation rate of roughly 5% during this time, this implies that wage earners have seen little to no real wage growth. An economy cannot break a middle-income trap if workers are unable to partake in the growth process, as reduced consumption demand will become a drag on the economy.

Most importantly, the question of democracy looms large. South Korea’s export strategy was overseen by a military government that ruled till the 1980s. The government frequently quelled labour unions to aid the accumulation process of capital. Chile deposed the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende by a military coup, installing General

THE GIST

- ▼ The middle-income trap refers to the slowdown of growth as economies reach middle-income status, with only 34 countries successfully transitioning to high-income levels in the last 34 years.
- ▼ Breaking the middle-income trap requires policies focused on investment, infusion of global technologies, and fostering domestic innovation supported by flexible and responsive state policies.
- ▼ India’s challenge is to foster growth through strategic state intervention while preserving democratic principles and ensuring inclusive participation in the growth process.

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Challenges Facing India: Increasing power of billionaires close to the state, limiting high domestic investment. Stagnation in manufacturing and reversal of structural transformation post-pandemic.

Discrepancy between GDP growth (around 7%) and real wage growth (around 5-7%) leading to reduced consumption demand.

The Hindu –GS 2(IR)-Page 18

India, ASEAN nations to look at linking payment systems

In a joint statement, both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of seas

Press Trust of India
VIENTIANE

India will share its knowledge and experience in using digital public infrastructure (DPI) such as Aadhaar and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the ASEAN nations and explore collaboration to address diverse challenges in education, healthcare, agriculture and climate change.

In the joint statement issued on Thursday after the 21st India-ASEAN summit, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two sides declared that they would explore collaboration of cross-border linkages between payment systems in ASEAN and India through digital solutions.



Narendra Modi with ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn and other dignitaries during the India-ASEAN Summit on Thursday. ANI

promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, and other lawful uses of the seas, including unimpeded lawful maritime commerce and to promote

lay the groundwork for our collaboration in future," Mr. Modi said in his closing remarks at the summit attended by leaders of the 10 ASEAN member nations.

The India-ASEAN summit is taking place at a time

tions agreed to explore partnerships between national agencies for fintech innovations and support digital solutions, including digital financial solutions. The two sides said they intend to expand cyber security cooperation to support the digital economy.

The two sides agreed to support collaboration in the development of necessary knowledge, skills, infrastructure, risk management frameworks and policies to effectively and responsibly leverage AI technologies and applications to harness the potential of AI advancements.

The 10 member countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

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- The two sides issued a joint statement on strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the region.
- It reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, and other lawful uses of the seas, including unimpeded lawful maritime commerce and to promote peaceful resolution of disputes.

Indian Express –Miscellaneous

18TH WOMAN TO WIN PRIZE

Han Kang, South Korean experimental novelist, wins Nobel for literature

Bagged 2016 Man Booker Prize for her novel *The Vegetarian*

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM, OCTOBER 10

SOUTH KOREAN author Han Kang won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for “her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life”, the award-giving body said on Thursday. The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth \$1.1 million.

“She has a unique awareness of the connections between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in her poetic and experimental style has become an innovator in contemporary prose,” Anders Olsson, chairman of the Academy’s Nobel Committee, said.

Han Kang, the first South Korean and the 18th woman to win the literature prize, began her career in 1993 with the publication of a number of poems in the magazine *Literature and Society*, while her prose debut came in



Han Kang is the first South Korean to win the prize. file

1995 with the short story collection “Love of Yeosu”.

Born in 1970, she comes from a literary background, her father being a well-regarded novelist.

Han Kang won the Man Booker International Prize for fiction for her novel *The Vegetarian* in 2016, the first of her novels to be translated into English and regarded as her major international breakthrough. In *The Vegetarian*, after struggling with gruesome recurring nightmares, Yeong-hye, a dutiful wife, rebels against societal norms.

forsaking meat and stirring concern among her family that she is mentally ill.

In an interview with the Booker Prizes published last year, Han Kang described how the writing of *The Vegetarian* had been a difficult period in her life where she questioned whether she should be able to finish the novel or even survive as an author. “I was suffering from severe arthritis in my fingers, so I wrote the first two parts at a leisurely pace, using a felt-tip pen that glided smoothly across the paper, and then typed out the last part holding two ballpoint pens upside down,” she said.

Her focus on historical trauma is explored in the novel *Human Acts* through a 1980 massacre of hundreds of students and unarmed civilians by the South Korean military in the city of Gwangju, where she herself grew up. In *We Do Not Part*, her latest novel due to be published in English in 2025, Han Kang “conveys the power of the past over the present”.

- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 was awarded to South Korean author Han Kang “for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.”
- The prize is worth 10 million Swedish krona (\$915,000) and is regarded widely as the world’s most prestigious literary award.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.

Indian Express –Economy(GSIII)-Page 19

Why govt wants to formulate standard National Agriculture Code

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

THE BUREAU of Indian Standards (BIS) has begun the process of formulating a National Agriculture Code (NAC), on the lines of the existing National Building Code and National Electrical Code.

What is the NAC?

The BIS is the national body which sets standards for different products across various economic sectors.

In agriculture, it has already set standards for machinery (tractors, harvesters, etc.) and various inputs (fertilisers, pesticides, etc.). However, many areas are not covered under BIS standards. For example, there is no standard for practices like the preparation of fields, micro irrigation or water use.

This is why, for a long time, policymakers

have felt the need for a comprehensive standards framework, similar to the one now being formulated. The NAC will cover the entire agriculture cycle, and will also contain a guidance note for future standardisation. It will serve as a guide for farmers, agriculture universities, and officials in the sector.

The code will have two parts. The first will contain general principles for all crops, and the second will deal with crop-specific standards for paddy, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses.

What will the NAC cover?

In addition to standards for agriculture machinery, the NAC will cover all agriculture processes and post-harvest operations, such as crop selection, land preparation, sowing/transplanting, irrigation/drainage, soil health management, plant health management, harvesting/threshing, primary processing, post-harvest, sustainability, and record maintenance. It will also include stan-

dards for input management, like use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and weedicides, as well as standards for crop storage and traceability.

The NAC will cover new and emerging areas in agriculture such as the use of Internet-of-Things (IoT). Essentially, it is a network of physical objects – “things” – that are embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies for connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the internet. In agriculture, this would include technologies like precision farming, in which farmers get real-time soil, crop, and weather information that can be used to adjust their inputs.

What are the stated objects of the NAC?

According to the BIS, the objectives are:

EXPLAINED POLICY

■ To act as an enabler of quality culture in Indian agriculture by providing the required reference to policy makers, agriculture departments and regulators for incorporating the provisions of NAC in their schemes, policies, or regulations;

■ To create a comprehensive guide for the farming community to ensure effective decision making in agricultural practices;

■ To integrate relevant Indian Standards with recommended agricultural practices.

■ To address the horizontal aspects of agriculture such as SMART farming, sustainability, traceability and documentation; and

■ To aid in the capacity building program organised by agriculture extension services

and civil society organisations.

■ To aid in the capacity building program organised by agriculture extension services

What is the proposed timeline?

The BIS has already formulated a strategy to standardise practices. It has formed working panels for 12-14 specifically identified areas, which will include university professors and R&D organisations. These panels will draft the code, with a tentative deadline for the NAC set as October 2025.

After this, the BIS plans to provide training to farmers on the NAC and its standards. “We have requested universities to organise training programs for farmers. The BIS will provide whatever financial assistance is needed for that,” Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General, BIS, told *The Indian Express*.

What are Standardised Agriculture Demonstration Farms?

Apart from drafting the NAC, the BIS has also taken initiative to setup Standardised

Agriculture Demonstration Farms (SADFs) in selected agriculture institutes in the country. SADFs will serve as experimental sites for testing and implementing various agricultural practices and new technologies, in accordance with the NAC.

For the development of these specialised farms, the BIS plans to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with premier agricultural institutes. “We have identified 10 prominent agricultural institutes, and will sign MoUs with them for the development of SADFs... These MoUs have been shared, and are currently being finalised. Two MoUs have already been signed,” Tiwari said. According to officials, the BIS will provide financial assistance to institutes for setting up the SADFs, where anyone, including officials responsible for extension activities, farmers or industry people can come and learn. Tiwari said China has already successfully demonstrated the working of such SADFs.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has begun the process of formulating a National Agriculture Code (NAC), on the lines of the existing National Building Code and National Electrical Code. What is the NAC, and why is it needed?

What is the National Agriculture Code?

- The BIS is the national body which sets standards for different products across various economic sectors. In agriculture, it has already set standards for machinery (tractors, harvesters, etc.) and various inputs (fertilisers, pesticides, etc.)
- The NAC will cover the entire agriculture cycle, and will also contain a guidance note for future standardisation. The code will have two parts. The first will contain general principles for all crops, and the second will deal with crop-specific standards for the likes of paddy, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses. The NAC will serve as a guide for farmers, agriculture universities, and officials involved in the field.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Women Empowerment(GSI)

International Day of the Girl Child

Empowering Girls for a Brighter Future

Posted On: 10 OCT 2024 9:16AM

The International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated annually on October 11, serves as a powerful reminder of the need to empower and protect girls worldwide. This day highlights the importance of gender equality, education, and opportunities for young girls. This day acts as a reminder to create an environment where girls can thrive, ensuring they are equipped with the tools to lead and shape their futures.



- The International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated on October 11, emphasizes the need to empower and protect girls worldwide, highlighting gender equality, education, and opportunities. This day stems from the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, which established the Beijing Declaration, recognizing girls' unique rights and needs. In 2011, the UN General Assembly designated October 11 as a day to raise awareness about the challenges girls face.
- The 2024 theme, "Girls' Vision for the Future," reflects the hope and determination of girls globally to create a better future. However, they need support from governments, communities, and individuals to realize their potential. With the right resources and opportunities, girls can become leaders and change-makers, positively impacting their families and communities.

Air-Internal Security(GSIII)

Centre Declares Hizb-Ut-Tahrir And All Its Manifestations And Front Organizations As Terrorist Organizations



गृह मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS

सत्यमेव जयते

- Centre has declared Hizb-Ut-Tahrir and all its manifestations and front organizations as terrorist organizations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)

About:

It was passed in 1967.

The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.

Aim:

It is aimed at “more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations for dealing with terrorist activities”.

- **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) Amendment Bill 2019:**The Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds
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