

# DAILY PT POINTERS

17<sup>th</sup> October,  
2024



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB-Internal Security(GSIII)



- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has hailed the unwavering dedication, courage and determination of NSG personnel on occasion of NSG Raising Day.
- NSG is Federal Contingency World Class Zero Error Force to deal with anti-terrorist activities in all its manifestation. The NSG is a Force specially equipped and trained to deal with specific situations and is therefore, to be used only in exceptional circumstances to thwart serious acts of terrorism.
- The Union Cabinet in 1984 took a decision to create a Federal Contingency Force comprising of personnel who are highly motivated, specially equipped and well trained to tackle the various manifestations of terrorism.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB-Economy(GSIII)



Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)



Cabinet approves Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2025-26

Posted On: 16 OCT 2024 3:12PM by PIB Delhi

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2025-26.

- MSP stands for Minimum Support Price. It is the minimum rate at which farmers sell their crops to the government. This price prevents farmers from market fluctuation and offers stability and income security.
- 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.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB –GS 3(Economy)

Ministry of Textiles



Government extends “Samarth” (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) till March 2026

Expected to impart employment linked skills to 3 lakh persons with an outlay of 495 crores

Posted On: 16 OCT 2024 6:21PM by PIB Delhi

- **Samarth (Scheme For Capacity Building In Textile Sector)** is a flagship skill development scheme approved in continuation to the Integrated Skill Development Scheme for 12<sup>th</sup> FYP, Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs. The industry is facing shortage of skilled workers and provides many opportunities for unemployed youth in the country who are trained in the sector. To address the issue, Central government of India has launched *Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)* and named it **SAMARTH Scheme**. The objectives of the scheme are to provide demand-driven, placement oriented skilling programme to incentivize the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors to promote skilling and skill up-gradation in the traditional sectors through respective sectoral divisions/organizations of Ministry of Textile; and to provide livelihood to all sections of the society across the country.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air –Culture(GSI)

Manipur Set To Celebrate Mera Hou Chongba 2024 Tomorrow



- In Manipur, the Mera Hou Chongba 2024 – an annual festival observed in order to strengthen the cordial bond between the indigenous communities living in hills and valley people, will be held at Imphal.
- Mera Hou Chongba is unique in that it brings together both hill and valley communities and is recognized as a general holiday in Manipur.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## Air –Cyber Security(GSIII)

### First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue Held In Singapore; Cyber Threat Landscape Discussed

The screenshot shows the official website of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Visits, Media Center, Foreign Policy, Consular Services, Public Diplomacy, Useful Links, Missions, and RTI. The main content area is titled 'Media Center' and displays a press release titled 'First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue' dated October 16, 2024. The press release text is as follows:

As announced by Prime Minister of India during 21st ASEAN-India Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 10 October 2024, the First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue was held on 16 October 2024 in Singapore. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Mr. Amit A. Shukla, Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Jeffrey Ion Dy, Undersecretary for Infrastructure Management, Cyber Security, and Upskilling, Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Philippines, the Philippines being India's Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India dialogue relations.

2. During the Dialogue, both sides exchanged views on cyber threat landscape, national cyber policies, threat assessment, and the recent developments in the ICT domain at the United Nations. The Dialogue explored cooperation in capacity building and training to identify specific areas of activities.

3. The Dialogue contributed to strengthening ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through implementation of ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation issued during the ASEAN - India Summit on 10 October 2024.

- The First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore today. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Amit A. Shukla. During the Dialogue, both sides exchanged views on the cyber threat landscape, national cyber policies, threat assessment, and the recent developments in the ICT domain at the United Nations.
- The Dialogue explored cooperation in capacity building and training to identify specific areas of activities. It contributed to strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation issued during the ASEAN-India Summit on the 10th of this month.

Indian Express –IR(GSII)-Page 1

ON THE SIDELINES OF SCO MEETING IN ISLAMABAD

## India, Pak open window: Cricket on table, Ministers hold talks

Jaishankar, Dar speak twice in 24 hours, PCB chief joins them



EXPRESS IN ISLAMABAD

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
OCTOBER 16

IN THE first direct conversation



- In a significant development, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar engaged in direct talks for the first time since 2015 during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting. They held two conversations within 24 hours, exploring the potential for resuming cricketing ties, specifically regarding the Champions Trophy hosted by Pakistan in February 2025.
- Among the documents signed by the SCO countries in Pakistan were proposals for an Economic Dialogue Programme and new economic strategy, cooperation between the trade promotion organisations of the SCO member States, cooperation in the field of “creative economy” development, and the passing of the SCO’s annual budget.

Indian Express –Economy(GSIII)-Page 1

## Strategic link to northern outpost among 5 Ladakh stretches cleared

### Wildlife board gives go-ahead to Defence Ministry plan

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

THE STANDING committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has cleared five key road stretches — four passing through the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) — including on a route to Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), the country's northernmost military outpost in Ladakh and location of its highest airstrip.

The road stretches cleared by NBWL include a link road from Chushul-Lukung to Thakung



post; a link road between Durbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DS-DBO) and Saser-Brangsa-Gapshan; DS-DBO to Track Junction; DBO to Karakoram Pass road; and upgradation of the Leh-Chalunka road. The 5.8-

km long Chushul-Lukung to Thakung post road upgradation is part of the India-China Border Roads (ICBR)-III project and will pass through the Changthang cold desert sanctuary.

A total of 35 km of road stretches have been cleared on the new route to DBO, which runs parallel to the LAC. Crucial among these is the 7.75 km-long DSDBO to Saser-Brangsa-Gapshan link road, which will be built at an altitude of 17,000 feet.

The wildlife nod is a shot in the arm for the Ministry of Defence which has expedited

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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Indian Express –Governance(GSII)-Page 6

## SC verdict today on challenge to Sec 6A of Citizenship Act

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

A FIVE-JUDGE Constitution bench of the Supreme Court will Thursday pronounce its verdict on whether Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 — which granted citizenship to immigrants who entered Assam before January 1, 1966 — is constitutional.

The provision was added to the statute in 1985 following the signing of the Assam Accord between the Rajiv Gandhi government at the Centre and the All Assam Students' Union. The accord was a culmination of a six-year-long agitation against the entry of Bangladeshi migrants into Assam.

The verdict is expected to answer crucial questions on the grant of citizenship to immigrants and the rights of "indigenous" Assamese people.

legal". They also claim that changing demographics in the state will affect the rights of indigenous Assamese people to conserve their culture under Article 29 of the Constitution.

Their petition, filed in 2012, states that "the application of Section 6A to the State of Assam alone has led to a perceptible change in the demographic pattern of the State and has reduced the people of Assam to a minority in their own State. The same is detrimental to the economic and political well-being of the State and acts as a potent force against the cultural survival, political control and employment opportunities..."

The Centre has relied on Article 11 of the Constitution which gives Parliament the power "to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all other matters relating to citizenship". Other respon-

- A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court will Thursday pronounce its verdict on whether Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 — which granted citizenship to immigrants who entered Assam before January 1, 1966 — is constitutional.
- The provision was added to the statute in 1985 following the signing of the Assam Accord between the Rajiv Gandhi government at the Centre and the All Assam Students' Union. The accord was a culmination of a six-year-long agitation against the entry of Bangladeshi migrants into Assam.
- The Centre has relied on Article 11 of the Constitution which gives Parliament the power "to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all other matters relating to citizenship"

### What does the Global Hunger Index 2024 state about India?

Why has the Ministry of Women and Child Development raised concerns over the data collection method?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

The Global Hunger Index for 2024 states that a 'serious' level of hunger is prevalent in India. It ranks India 105th among 127 countries, giving it a score of 27.3. A score below 9.9 indicates low levels of hunger, 10-19.9 moderate, 35-49.9 alarming and above 50 extremely alarming.

What does it state about India?

The score is based on four broad parameters, that is, child stunting (share of children under five with lower height proportional to their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition), undernourishment (share of population with insufficient caloric intake), child wasting (share of children under five with lower weight proportional to their height) and child mortality (share of children who die before their fifth birthday). The report traced 13.7% of the population to be undernourished, 35.5% of children as

stunted, 18.7% of children wasted and 2.9% of children dying before their fifth birthday. As per the survey, India has the highest child wasting rate globally.

However, the analysis states that India has demonstrated "significant political will" to transform the food and nutrition landscape – pointing to the National Food Security Act, Poshan Abhiyan (National Nutrition Mission), PM Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKAY) and National Mission for Natural Farming. But the report argues there exists room for improvement. To illustrate a solution, the report points to the co-relation between the poor nutritional status of mothers being transferred onto their children. There exists an "intergenerational pattern of undernutrition" where the factors driving India's high child wasting rate entail mothers inflicted with insufficient weight gain during pregnancy and low birth weight among infants.

What about India's GDP growth?

The report states that the relationship

between per capita GDP growth and low levels of hunger is "not always direct or guaranteed". In other words, GDP growth alone does not result in improved food and nutritional security for the entire populace. Thus, the report puts forth the imperative for policies to emphasise pro-poor development alongside addressing social/economic inequalities.

What solutions does it propose?

Broadly, the report proposes a multifaceted approach such as improved access to social safety nets, addressing complementary factors relating to well-being and nutrition, alongside dedicated approaches to assessing and provisioning nutritional needs. The first of the proposed measures entail improved access to safety nets and cash transfers. These, the report states, involve improving access to programs such as the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS), PMGKAY and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Other than this, it proposes investments in

agriculture and a holistic food systems approach which promotes diversified, nutritious and ecological food production including nutri-cereals such as millets.

Other dedicated approaches include making effective investments in mother and child health. It recommends a set of factors such as improved water, sanitation and hygiene, among other things. Finally, the report also seeks interventions to consider links between food and nutrition, gender and climate change.

THE GIST

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▼ The Ministry of Women and Child Development have expressed concerns about the data not being accessed from their ICT application 'Poshan Tracker'.

What is the debate about data collection methodology?

The previous year, the Ministry of Women and Child Development had expressed concerns about the data not being accessed from their ICT application 'Poshan Tracker'. The Ministry pointed out that UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank have acknowledged the tracker as a "game-changer". It observed child wasting being consistently below 7.2% on a month-on-month basis as compared to the 18.7% stated in the 2023 index. However, researchers have maintained that they use survey estimates that have been vetted for inclusion in the Joint Malnutrition Estimates and/or the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition. It argues that using the same data source ensures that the numbers are produced using comparable methodologies. "Introducing exceptions to this process for any country would compromise the comparability of the results and the ranking," it states.

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The Hindu –IR(GSII)-Page 12

## Five Eyes supports Canada in spat with India on Nijjar

U.K. is the latest to declare its confidence in the judicial process by Ottawa, which is investigating the alleged involvement of Indian diplomats in the 2023 killing of a pro-Khalistan preacher

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The United Kingdom has “full confidence” in the Canadian judicial process, the Foreign Office in London declared on Wednesday, expanding the ambit of the unprecedented diplomatic crisis that has broken out between India and Canada over the alleged involvement of Canada-based Indian diplomats in the 2023 killing of pro-Khalistan preacher Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

U.K. is the fourth member of the ‘Five Eye’ countries to extend support to Canada’s position. Earlier New Zealand, the United States and Australia had backed Canada.

“We are in contact with our Canadian partners about the serious developments outlined in the independent investigations in Canada. The U.K. has full confidence in Canada’s judicial system. Respect for sovereignty and the rule of law is essential,” said the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office in an official statement.

The Five Eye countries – Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.S. and U.K. –



**Tit-for-tat:** India and Canada have both expelled diplomats from their missions in the row over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. **PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD**

often coordinate closely on issues of common security interest.

### The key pillar

The protection of political and civil rights, including the right to peaceful protest, is a key pillar of the Five Eye democracies. In the recent years, India has been uncomfortable with the campaign for so-called (online) referendum on Khalistan in all the five countries but India’s arguments did not prevent the Five Eye countries to crack down on the pro-Khalistan campaigners.

Earlier, New Zealand became first among the friends of Canada from within the Five Eye democracies to express support

for the Canadian position expressing concern about the allegations from Canada.

“The alleged criminal conduct outlined publicly by Canadian law enforcement authorities, if proven, would be very concerning,” said New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters in a social media statement on X on Tuesday.

Mr. Peters expressed support for the rule of law.

### Diplomats expelled

Citing alleged involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Canada has expelled six Indian diplomats, including High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma. In a tit-for-tat

move, India too expelled six Canadian diplomats, including the head of mission Stewart Ross Wheeler. Both sides have given time till October 19 for the diplomats to exit.

Australia has also come forward to support Canada’s allegations and urged for respect for sovereignty of nation states.

Spokesperson of the U.S. State Department Mathew Miller also said on Tuesday, “When it comes to the Canadian matter, we have made clear that the allegations are extremely serious, and they need to be taken seriously. We wanted to see the Government of India cooperate with Canada in its investigation. Obviously, they have not chosen that path.”

The escalating crisis drew attention of the Indian National Congress that urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take Parliament into confidence. “Our nation’s international image as a country that believes in and adheres to rule of law is at risk, and it is crucial that we act together to defend it,” said Jairam Ramesh, general secretary in charge of communications, expressing concern about the crisis.

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- U.K. is the fourth member of the ‘Five Eye’ countries to extend support to Canada’s position. Earlier New Zealand, the United States and Australia had backed Canada.
- . The Five Eye countries — Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.S., and U.K. — often coordinate closely on issues of common security interest.
- The protection of political and civil rights, including the right to peaceful protest, is a key pillar of the Five Eye democracies.

## The Hindu –IR(GSII)-Page 13

### Army to commemorate 62 years of the Battle of Walong with China

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

To mark the 62nd anniversary of the iconic Battle of Walong during the 1962 war with China, the Army is planning a month-long series of commemorative events beginning on Thursday. They will continue till November 14. In addition to a series of activities, the newly renovated Walong War Memorial, Shaurya Sthal at Lama Spur, and some key infrastructure projects in the border areas are also set to be inaugurated.

In 1962, the Indian Army halted the advancing People's Liberation Army soldiers for 27 days which forced them to commit their reserve Division from Tawang Sector to Walong as fierce battles unfolded in the unforgiving terrain



**Last stand:** The Walong War Memorial commemorating the iconic battle of 1962 in Arunachal Pradesh. DINAKAR PERI

of Kibithu, Namti Tri Junction (famously known as Tiger's Mouth), Walong, and adjoining features.

In October 1962, as Chinese forces advanced into the eastern most parts of Arunachal Pradesh, the task of defending it fell on the 11 Infantry Brigade under the Second Infantry Division. The Brigade had 6 Kumaon regiment 4 Sikh

regiment, third battalion of 3 Gorkha Rifles, in addition to second battalion of 8 Gorkha Rifles and 4 Dogra.

The Chinese offensive with more than 4,000 soldiers could not breach the forward defences held with 800 men for over 27 days and the Chinese Army was subsequently forced to employ additional division size force of approximately

15,000 soldiers. Vastly outnumbered and with little ammunition and no resources, the Indian soldiers fought till the last man, last round. Capturing this, the *Time* magazine wrote in January 1963, "At Walong, Indian troops lacked everything. The only thing they did not lack was guts."

This year's commemoration promises a vibrant mix of activities aimed at engaging the local communities and honouring the memory of the fallen heroes, one Army official said. "The events include white water rafting, motorcycle rallies, bicycle rallies, battlefield treks, adventure treks and a half marathon, all designed to reflect the adventurous spirit of the Indian Army in the rugged terrain of Arunachal Pradesh."

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## The Hindu –Environment(GSIII)-Page 14

### Climate change impact harsher on poorer farmers in India: FAO report

A.M. Jigeesh  
NEW DELHI

Poor households globally lose 5% of their total income in an average year from heat stress and 4.4% from floods compared with households that are relatively better off, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said in a report on Wednesday, warning about the negative impacts of climate change on the farming population in India.

Senior FAO economist Nicholas Sitko presented the report “The unjust climate. Measuring the impacts of climate change on rural poor, women, and youth” in New Delhi.

The report said on-farm income sources of the rural poor in India were affected in different ways depending on the type of climate stress. In case of droughts or such events, poor households dedicated more



The vulnerability of poor households to climate stressors is likely to be rooted in structural inequalities, the report said. FILE PHOTO

time and resources to agricultural production to sustain themselves, as off-farm employment opportunities reduced.

The total incomes of poor households reduce compared with those of families that have not been exposed to a significant climate stressor, it said. “The vulnerability of poor households to climate stressors is likely to be rooted in structural inequalities”

the report said and asked the government to take policy measures such as expanding the social security net.

Anticipatory social protection programmes can be scaled up and scaled out to more beneficiaries in anticipation of an extreme weather event, the report suggested. “Providing effective livelihood support ahead of extreme weather events can help

reduce reliance on adverse coping strategies and limit the number of people pushed into poverty because of these events,” it said. The report recommended improving workforce diversification and enhancing off-farm employment opportunities. It urged policymakers to address “gendered barriers” in non-farm employment.

Responding to the report, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand said India was doing its best to deal with the issue of climate change. “We have implemented National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) much earlier to address the problem of climate change. We were first in the world to do so for all crops. We also have a contingency plan for all agriculture districts. We were the first country to implement an employment guarantee scheme as a social safety net,” he said.

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