

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-IR(GSII)-Page 1

BRICS nations should strengthen financial integration: Modi

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India favours greater financial integration among the member-countries of the BRICS grouping, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared on Wednesday at the 16th BRICS meeting in Kazan.

He placed India's uncompromising position on international terrorism at the plenary session of the BRICS summit that blamed Israel for "unprecedented escalation of violence" in Gaza Strip and expressed "alarm" over the situation in Lebanon.

"We welcome efforts to increase financial integration among BRICS countries. Trade in local currencies and smooth cross-border payments will strengthen our economic cooperation. The Unified Payments Interface [UPI] developed by



On the high table: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders attend the BRICS summit in Kazan on Wednesday. REUTERS

ry and has been adopted in many countries," said Mr. Modi, urging more countries to join India in doing trade in local currencies or locally developed payment mechanisms.

CONTINUED ON

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- "We welcome efforts to increase financial integration among BRICS countries. Trade in local currencies and smooth cross-border payments will strengthen our economic cooperation. The Unified Payments Interface [UPI] developed by India is a huge success story and has been adopted in many countries,

States can regulate industrial alcohol: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of nine judges, in an 8:1 majority judgment, upheld the State legislatures' right to regulate industrial alcohol.

The majority opinion authored by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud held that the phrase "intoxicating liquor" in Entry 8 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution would include industrial alcohol within its ambit. Entry 8 gives States the power to regulate the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of "intoxicating liquor".

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, in her lone dissent, however, held that "industrial alcohol" cannot be brought within the ambit of "intoxicating liquor" in Entry 8. The judge said the States



The term 'intoxicating liquor' should be given a definition as broad as possible, says the CJI.

competence to regulate industrial alcohol or denatured spirit.

Multiple States had challenged the Centre's position that it had exclusive control over industrial alcohol. The Centre had traced its power to Entry 52 of the Union List.

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- Entry 8 gives States the power to regulate the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of "intoxicating liquor".Entry 8 of List II is based on public interest. It seeks to enhance the scope of the entry beyond potable alcohol. Alcohol is inherently a noxious substance that is prone to misuse affecting public health at large. Entry 8 covers alcohol that could be used noxiously to the detriment of public health. This includes alcohol such as rectified spirit, ENA (extra neutral alcohol) and denatured spirit which are used as raw materials in the production of potable alcohol and other products,"

The Hindu –GS 2(Governance)-Page 1

Two years after launch, Delhi govt. signs MoU with Education Ministry to implement PM SHRI scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nearly two years after its launch, Delhi has come on board the PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme with Education Department officials signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education (MoE) on Tuesday for its implementation.

MoE officials confirm that the funds for Delhi under Samagra Shiksha scheme will be released shortly

‘exemplar’ institutions, with the Centre contributing to 60% of the funding for upgradation.

Delhi’s Secretary (Education) Ashok Kumar had

funds for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 amounting to around ₹330 crore.

The PM SHRI scheme, which is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, falls under the overarching scheme of Samagra Shiksha. Senior MoE officials confirmed that the funds for Delhi will be released shortly.

While earlier Tamil Na-

du, Kerala, West Bengal MoE officials confirmed that Tamil Nadu and Kerala are expected to sign the MoU soon.

“We had not initially implemented PM SHRI since we had our own education model. We were also willing to implement NEP but not the way the Centre was imposing upon us. It did not release the funds for Samagra Shiksha, resulting in finan-

- Nearly two years after its launch, Delhi has come on board the PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme with Education Department officials signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education (MoE) on Tuesday for its implementation.
- To be implemented in all States over five years at a total cost of ₹27,360 crore, the scheme proposes to convert more than 14,500 schools into ‘exemplar’ institutions, with the Centre contributing to 60% of the funding for upgradation.
- The PM SHRI scheme, which is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, falls under the overarching scheme of Samagra Shiksha. Senior MoE officials confirmed that the funds for Delhi will be released shortly.
- While earlier Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi, and Punjab had not signed the MoU over issues ranging from NEP implementation to scheme nomenclature, Punjab came on board in August. Senior MoE officials confirmed that Tamil Nadu and Kerala are expected to sign the MoU soon.

The Hindu –Environment(GSIII)-Page 12

'Stubble burning goes against right to live in pollution-free space'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said continuing cases of stubble burning and the "pick-and-choose" policy adopted by the Punjab and Haryana governments to penalise a few while letting many violators go "scot-free" after paying a nominal fine violated citizens' right to live in a pollution-free environment.

"There is a fundamental right vested in every citizen under Article 21 of the Constitution to live in an environment free of pollution," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka observed. The court said officials had failed in not only effectively implementing existing laws but also allowed blatant violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21. "It is time governments [the Centre and National Capital Region States] addressed the question of how they are going to protect the rights of citizens to live with dignity in a pollution-free environment," the top court said.

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said the onset of every winter brought cases of pollution to the court, which has passed a number of orders. "But



Proper machinery for collection of fines are not formulated yet, says Supreme Court Bench. AP

what has actually changed," he asked.

Justice Oka pointed out that a proper machinery for collection of fines under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 had not been formulated. Section 15 outlines the penalties for violating the provisions of the Act. Penalties include five years of imprisonment and ₹1 lakh as fine.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for both the Centre and the Commission for Air Quality Management, said the entire machinery would be put in place in two weeks. *Amicus curiae* Aparajita Singh drew the court's attention to air pollution in urban areas of the national capital.

DELHI'S POLLUTION WOES

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Indian Express –Environment (GSIII)-Page 9

India goes to Kenya, looking to source cheetahs better suited for home conditions

NIKHIL GHANEKAR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

WITH SOURCING of cheetahs on agenda, a four-member delegation of the Union Environment Ministry and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is in Kenya to discuss finalisation of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on wildlife conservation.

Under the ambitious Project Cheetah, which saw the inter-continental translocation of African cheetahs to Madhya Pradesh, the government's aim is to introduce eight to 14 cheetahs each year, subject to availability.

A draft of the MoU was first exchanged and discussed by officials of the two countries in May when a six-member Kenyan delegation visited Delhi as well as Kuno National Park and Gandhi



The government aims to introduce eight to 14 cheetahs each year

Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh. A key component of the MoU is "promotion and exchange of relevant wildlife species", indicating the discussions the countries have undertaken on potential import of cheetahs from Kenya and discussions that are likely to happen on the issue during the visit of the Indian delegation.

India has been exploring the

option of sourcing cheetahs from Kenya for Project Cheetah as it is believed that they would adapt better to India's tropical climate, as part of the African country lies in the northern hemisphere. Cheetahs sourced from southern hemisphere countries – Namibia and South Africa – had developed winter coats during Indian monsoon, and the dampness led to fatal infections under their radio collars. Sources aware of the developments said that Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has greenlit the MoU prior to the official visit. "The visit is aimed at advancing talks on partnerships with Kenya on the issue of wildlife conservation and the MoU outlines the actionable issues of the partnership. Sourcing cheetahs from Kenya is one of the issues on the agenda," said a highly-placed source.

Some of the other major collaborations on wildlife conservation outlined in the MoU include capacity building, research, training of field staff, wildlife management and habitat management.

"We can train their field staff at institutions such as Wildlife Institute of India and impart field lessons at our tiger reserves. These are some of the issues that have been discussed earlier," said another source.

India had expressed its desire to source cheetahs from Kenya during a visit of Kenya President William Ruto last December.

In May, the Kenyan delegation visited Delhi to discuss with NTCA officials and then went to see the management of cheetahs at Kuno National Park and preparations at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, the next site where cheetahs are likely to be introduced.

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Indian Express –Health(GSII)-Page 12

MCDONALD'S-LINKED OUTBREAK IN UNITED STATES: WHAT IS E.COLI?

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

ONE PERSON has died and 10 have been hospitalised in the US due to an *E.coli* infection after eating McDonald's burgers.

While the source of the infection is not known yet, the fast food giant has stopped serving quarter pound patties and sliced onions in several states. Both ingredients are primarily used in the burger.

Has the outbreak been reported outside the US too?

No. The outbreak is restricted to 10 states in the United States.

However, *E.coli*, which causes gastrointestinal symptoms, is not uncommon in India. It spreads through contaminated food and water. "We usually see cases during the summer and rainy seasons, when there is an increase in gastrointestinal infections in general," said Dr Atul Gogia, senior consultant of internal medicine at Sir Ganga Ram hospital, New Delhi.

Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior consultant of internal medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, said: "Among gastrointestinal and urinary tract infections, *E.coli* is one of the most common pathogens."

How common are *E.coli* infections?

pitals across India, where the surveillance is carried out.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working on creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will test food products for 10 pathogens, including *E.coli*, salmonella, and listeria. Tests for microbial contamination were missing from most state food safety laboratories in the country.

What are the infection's symptoms?

The most common symptoms of *E.coli* infection include fever of more than 102 degree F, persistent diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea, and vomiting. The main problem, however, is dehydration due to the inability of the patient to retain water and fluids.

In very few cases, people may get acute kidney injury.

How is it treated?

E.coli is a bacterial infection for which antibiotics are prescribed. Doctors emphasise that medicines should not be taken without consultation.

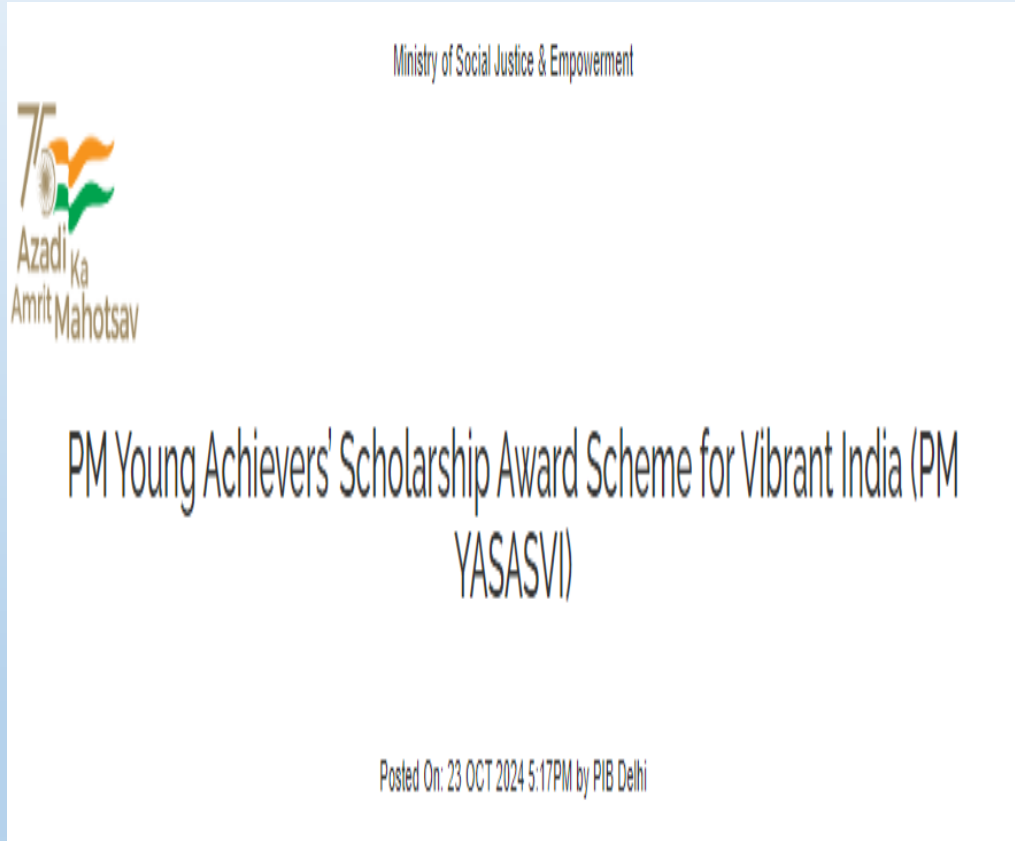
Indiscriminate use of antibiotics leads to antimicrobial resistance and further difficulty in treating common infections. For example, *E.coli*'s susceptibility to even strong antibiotics, such as carbapenem, has been on the decline, reducing from 81.4% in 2017 to 62.7% in 2023 to one type of medicine in this category.

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Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) is a bacterium that is commonly found in the gut of humans and warm-blooded animals. Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless. Some strains however, such as Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), can cause severe foodborne disease. It is transmitted to humans primarily through consumption of contaminated foods, such as raw or undercooked ground meat products, raw milk, and contaminated raw vegetables and sprouts.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB –Governance(GSII)

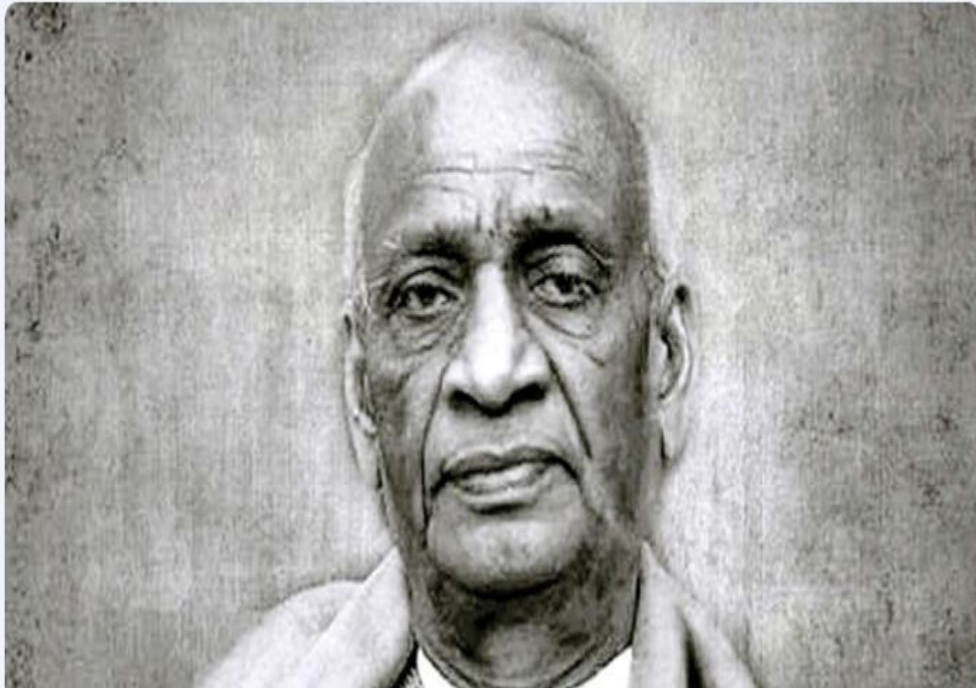


- **PM YASASVI** is a Scholarship scheme for Other Backward Class (OBCs), Economically Backward Class (EBC) and Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNT) Students.
- Under this Scheme students can avail Pre-Matric Scholarship from Class 9 to 10 and Post Matric Scholarship for their higher studies at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage. Students who excel in their studies also get an opportunity of Scholarship to study in Top Class Schools and Colleges under the Scheme of 'Top Class School Education' and 'Top Class College Education'.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air –History(GSI)

Govt Launches Two-Year Nationwide Celebration For Sardar Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, largely self-taught, became a lawyer renowned for his precise legal skills.

Kheda Satyagraha, 1917

As a prominent local leader in the Kheda district of Gujarat, Patel supported Mahatma Gandhi in organising the Satyagraha against unjust land revenue taxes imposed by the British.

Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920-22

Patel significantly impacted the Non-Cooperation Movement, recruiting approximately 300,000 members and raising 1.5 million rupees.

Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928

During the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel supported the local population suffering from famine and increased land taxes.

Civil Disobedience Movement 1930-34

Patel actively participated in the Salt Satyagraha, a nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly. Following independence in 1947, over 560 princely states were not directly governed by the British.