

# DAILY PT POINTERS

3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024



## The Hindu-Welfare Schemes(GSII)-Page 1

### Package launched for scheme saturation in ST-majority villages

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a package for basic scheme saturation in tribal-majority villages across 550 districts, at an event in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district.

Mr. Modi also laid the foundation stones of a host of other projects intended to benefit tribal people across the country.

The package, originally coined as the PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, was cleared by the Union Cabinet last month as an umbrella package to imple-

ment existing schemes in 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages.

Dharti Aaba is the name that many in Jharkhand use to refer to Birsa Munda, the anti-colonial tribal leader who built a resistance against the British empire in the late 19th century. Jharkhand is headed to the Assembly election later this year.

There are 25 interventions planned under the special welfare package. An outlay of ₹79,156 crore, to be spent over five years, has been cleared by the Union Cabinet. Of this, the Central share will be ₹56,333 crore and the share of respective States will be ₹22,823 crore.

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## The Hindu –GS 1(Places)



**Taken over:** Cows graze near remains of a boat at the Little Prespa Lake on the Albanian-Greek border. AFP

### Little Prespa Lake on Albanian-Greek border slowly dying

**Agence France-Presse**  
BUZËLIQEN

Plants and reeds have sprouted up as the waters of Little Prespa Lake on the Albanian-Greek border recede, their beauty overshadowing a painful truth: the lake is slowly dying.

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- Plants and reeds have sprouted up as the waters of Little Prespa Lake on the Albanian-Greek border recede, their beauty overshadowing a painful truth: the lake is slowly dying.
- The once crystal-clear lake has mostly been transformed into a marshy watering hole in this corner of southeastern Albania. “A few years ago, this was a lake with pure water. Fishing was our life. But today we have nothing left. The lake is dead
- The majority of Little Prespa Lake, also known as Small Lake Prespa, sits in Greek territory, with just its southern tip crossing into Albania. It is a smaller cousin of the larger Great Prespa Lake to the north. According to experts, of the 450 hectares of Little Prespa Lake in Albania, at least 430 hectares have been transformed into swamps or dried up. For the inhabitants, the beginning of the misfortune dates back to the 1970s, when communist authorities diverted the Devoll River to irrigate fields around the nearby Albanian city of Korca.

Indian Express –IR(GSII)-Page 1

## India's worry: Long trade routes, high shipping rates, Corridor risks

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

AS THE conflict in West Asia enters a new and unstable phase, both global and Indian traders are bracing for a prolonged disruption in trade. The vital Red Sea shipping route may remain inaccessible to global shipping lines for a much longer duration than

previously anticipated, potentially keeping freight rates uncomfortably high.

The potential widening of the conflict has increased the risk of trade disruptions, as the Lebanon-based Hezbollah shares close ties with the Houthi rebels in Yemen, who are responsible for the majority of the attacks on ships traversing the Red Sea route. This assumes significance

EXPLAINED  
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for India as it relies heavily on this route through the Suez Canal for its trade with Europe, the US, Africa and West Asia, as these regions accounted for over \$400 billion in FY23, according to Crisil Ratings.

### Impact on India

Exporters have long feared a direct conflict between Israel and Iran as it would mean a protracted disruption of the crucial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- Iran launched missiles at Israel, escalating the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Israel's focus shifted from Hamas to Hezbollah after the assassination of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.  
Trade Disruption Fears: The Red Sea shipping route may remain closed for an extended period, disrupting global trade and keeping freight rates high, significantly impacting exporters, especially Indian traders.  
Impact on India: Indian exports, particularly petroleum products, have been hit hard, with exports falling by 9% in August. The Red Sea crisis has led to shipping cost increases, further straining Indian companies' profit margins.
- Alternative Trade Routes: Ships are using longer routes around the Cape of Good Hope, increasing shipping costs by 15-20%, affecting industries that rely on low-cost exports like textiles and engineering products.
- India's Trade Relations: Despite the crisis, India's trade with neutral West Asian countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar increased by 17.8% in early 2024.

## Indian Express-Economy(GSIII)-Page 11

EXPLAINED LAW

# Food safety laws in states

The UP government has issued directives requiring all eateries to display the names and addresses of their owners and employees. In July, SC stayed similar orders passed in UP and Uttarakhand. What are the requirements for selling food in India? What powers do states have to make laws in this regard?

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THE UTTAR PRADESH government last week made it mandatory for food establishments to “prominently” display to customers the names of “the operator, proprietor, manager, and other relevant personnel”. A day later, Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh said that in his state too, “every eatery and fast food cart will have to display the owner’s ID”.

The Himachal government disowned the statement and, at a meeting in Delhi with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Singh reportedly affirmed his commitment to the party’s “core principles”.

On July 22, the Supreme Court stayed similar orders passed by police in UP and Uttarakhand for this year’s kanwar yatra. The court said that the “competent authority” under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSSA) could indeed issue such orders, but police could not “usurp” this power.

So what information are food establishments required to display under the FSSA? Can the government of a state ask for additional information to be displayed, and, if



Food stalls in Muzaffarnagar in July, after the police order to owners. Gajendra Yadav

the Food Business Operator carries on the food business”.

In both situations, therefore, the owner’s identity and the establishment’s location are

tion” of the FSSA and its accompanying rules and regulations. Sections 30(2)(a) to

(e) cover specific functions of the Commissioner of Food Safety (covering out-

with the FSSA, the measures it must take, and the time period for compliance (minimum 14 days).

A business that fails to comply with this notice may have their licence suspended or, in case of further non-compliance, even cancelled.

The UP directives do not specify the penalty for non-compliance. Section 58 deals with “Penalty for contraventions for which no specific penalty is provided” — “which may extend to two lakh rupees”. A food business operator who is convicted twice for the same offence (including one under Section 58), may be required to pay double the penalty for the first conviction, with a further fine “on daily basis” which can extend up to Rs 1 lakh, and also lose their licence (Section 64).

### Can a state government’s directives under FSSA be challenged in court?

One of the grounds on which the earlier UP and Uttarakhand police directives were challenged was that the orders effectively forced individuals to reveal their religious and caste identities.

During the hearing in the SC on July 22, the petitioners argued that the orders dis-



- The Uttar Pradesh government last week made it mandatory for food establishments to “prominently” display to customers the names of “the operator, proprietor, manager, and other relevant personnel”
- the Supreme Court stayed similar orders passed by police in UP and Uttarakhand for this year’s kanwar yatra. The court said that the “competent authority” under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSSA) could indeed issue such orders, but police could not “usurp” this power. Anyone who intends to operate a food business is required to either register or license their business from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), a body established under the FSSA to monitor and create regulations for how food should be processed, distributed, sold, and imported to ensure “safe and wholesome” food. Under the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Rules, 2011 (enacted under the FSSA), “Petty Food Manufacturers” such as small-scale food businesses, hawkers, vendors, and stall holders, are required to register with the FSSAI

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Defense(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

Of the total 32 lakh defence pensioners, 30 lakh have been successfully linked to SPARSH portal, says Raksha Mantri at 277th Annual Day celebrations of Defence Accounts Department

Shri Rajnath Singh exhorts DAD to establish a robust data management system to assess the impact of defence expenditure on the economy

“Prepare a roadmap to make DAD a ‘Centre of Excellence’ in defence finance & economics”

India is today seen as a defence exporter due to the Govt’s self-reliance efforts: RM

Posted On: 01 OCT 2024 3:16PM by PIB Delhi

- 30 lakh out of 32 lakh defence pensioners have been successfully linked to the SPARSH portal, which automates pension processes and directly credits pensions to bank accounts without intermediaries.
- ‘System for Pension Administration {Raksha} (SPARSH) is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence for automating the defence pension ecosystem.
- The system is embedded with numerous automated checks and controls, with Operational Decision Manager-based rule engine which incorporates over 500 rules and 1,000 on-screen validations.
- In order to ensure integrity, efficiency and accountability of the system, Internal Audit is essential and helps improve the functionality of SPARSH. It also ensures that necessary controls are in place for integrity and accuracy of pension management processes.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB-Economy(GSIII)





- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme on 11th September 2024 to promote electric mobility in the country. The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹10,900 crore over a period of two years.
- As part of the scheme, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) introduced e-vouchers for EV customers to avail of demand incentives. The e-vouchers streamline the process of accessing incentives, providing a seamless experience for both consumers and manufacturers.



## PIB:Disaster Management(GSIII)

Ministry of Home Affairs

MHA releases ₹ 5858.60 crore to 14 flood-affected as a central share from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and an advance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

Modi government stands shoulder to shoulder with the states affected by natural calamities in mitigating the hardship faced by the people

Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) were sent in flood-affected States of Assam, Mizoram, Kerala, Tripura, Nagaland, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Manipur for an on-the-spot assessment of the damages

IMCTs will be sent shortly for making an on-the-spot assessment of damage in states of Bihar and West Bengal, which have also recently been affected by floods

After assessment reports of IMCTs are received, additional financial assistance from NDRF, will be approved to the disaster affected states, as per the established procedure

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah more than ₹ 14,958 crore has been released to 21 states during this year

- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted in each State under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The fund is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters. The Central Government contributes 75% to the SDRF in general States and 90% in North-East and Himalayan States.
- The annual Central contribution is released in two equal instalments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. As per the guidelines, the funds are released on receipt of Utilisation Certificate of the amount released in the earlier instalment and receipt of a report from the State Government on the activities undertaken from SDRF. However, in view of the urgency, these requirements were waived while releasing the funds this time. The SDRF is to be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of notified calamities like cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and frost & cold wave

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: IR(GSII)



- The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Germany Military Cooperation Sub Group (MCSG) meeting was held from 01-02 Oct 24 at Berlin, Germany. Discussions focused on new initiatives to further enhance the scope of bilateral military cooperation and to strengthen ongoing defence engagements across the spectrum. The meeting was conducted in a friendly, warm, and cordial atmosphere.
- The MCSG is a forum established to boost defence cooperation between both nations through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels between Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff, and the Department of International Cooperation Armed Forces, Germany

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**Air: Women Empowerment (GSI)**

## NITI Aayog Launches First State Chapter Of Women Entrepreneurship Platform



सत्यमेव जयते

# NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog has launched its maiden State Chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) in association with WE Hub and the Telangana government.
- WE Hub will be the nodal agency for all WEP activities in the State. The platform aims at promoting and supporting women entrepreneurs across sectors, providing them resources, tools, and a robust network to enhance their business growth. The WEP will offer customised support like digital skilling, access to financial services, mentorship, and market linkages.