

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 12

Shah unveils mobile app for birth and death registration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application to “integrate technology with governance”.

Mr. Shah said the application would make registration of births and deaths seamless and hassle-free by allowing citizens to register at any time, from any place, and in their State’s official language.

“It will significantly reduce the time required for registration,” he said in a post on X.

According to the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all reported births and deaths in the country occurring from October 1, 2023, are to be digitally registered through the Centre’s portal dc.crsorgi.gov.in.

Single document

The digital birth certificates will be a single document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs and marriage registration.

The centralised database will also help update the National Population Register (NPR). ration



Amit Shah, IAS

cards, property registration and electoral rolls.

Data for the NPR, first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015 through door-to-door enumeration, already includes information on 119 crore residents. NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), as per the Citizenship Act.

Patel remembered

Mr. Shah also unveiled a statue of India’s first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Census Building in the capital.

He said that Patel wove the country into a thread of unity, laying the foundation for a strong India. “This statue of the Iron Man, a symbol of struggle and sacrifice for national interest, will continue to inspire everyone as a testament to his unwavering dedication to establishing democratic values in the country,” Mr. Shah said.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the CRS mobile app to enhance governance through technology. The app allows citizens to register births and deaths anytime and anywhere, in their state’s official language.
- Aims to significantly reduce registration time. As per the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all births and deaths reported from October 1, 2023, must be digitally registered through the central portal. Digital birth certificates will serve as proof of date of birth for various services, including education, government jobs, and marriage registration.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA EXPANDED

Govt rolls out health cover for all aged 70 years and above, 6 crore to benefit

No income limit, annual cover of Rs 5 lakh per family; Rs 5 lakh top-up for poor

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched the expanded Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to provide health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their income — a decision which is expected to



PM Narendra Modi hands over the Ayushman Vaya Vandana card to a beneficiary at an event in Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

benefit about 6 crore people from 4.5 crore families. As announced earlier, Rs 5 lakh annual coverage per family will be provided to all citizens in

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PM prod to Bengal, Delhi comes as key Opp states among top beneficiaries

KAUNAIN SHERIFFM & ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

LAUNCHING AYUSHMAN Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) for every citizen over the age of 70 years, regardless of income level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged how two Opposition-ruled states, West

Bengal and Delhi, would not benefit as they had opted to stay out of the scheme.

The PM's message that politics had come in the way of welfare resonates with data from the ground.

Indeed, a clear trend six years into the scheme's rollout is that a substantial share of the allocated funds has been utilised by Opposition-ruled states.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched health cards under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to provide health coverage to people aged 70 years and above, regardless of their income and economic status.
- The Ayushman Vaya Vandana card marks the beginning of the expanded scheme that is expected to change the face of public healthcare as India's rapidly growing ageing citizens can now access treatment, which had been out of their reach because of high costs.
- Everyone of age 70 or more will be entitled to a cover of Rs 5 lakh annually, shared within the family. This means if there are two elderly beneficiaries in the household, the cover will be split among them.
- “The elderly people, who always had anxieties about their healthcare because of costs, can now live with swabhimaan (dignity),” said Modi. The scheme will be available everywhere except Delhi and Bengal, since these states have not adopted Ayushman Bharat.

ED issues guidelines to record statements under PMLA Sec 50

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE ED Tuesday issued comprehensive internal guidelines for its officers regarding recording statements under section 50 of PMLA, and said that efforts should be made to record a person's statement "summoned during office hours rather than stretching it too late at night."

In its statement, the ED said, "Division bench of Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay vide its order on April 15 this year in the matter titled 'Ram Kotumal Issrani vs Directorate of Enforcement' bearing criminal writ petition of 2023 while upholding the arrest made by the ED under PMLA has directed this Directorate to issue circular/directions, as to timings, for recording statements under Section 50 of PMLA."

To comply with these directions, the ED has issued internal guidelines for its officers.

"It is expected from the authorised officer that they shall be well prepared with copies of documents to be confronted as well as a questionnaire to examine the person summoned at the appointed date and time. The authorised officer while fixing the date and time of the compliance of the

summons should ensure that the person so summoned is taken up for examination on appointed time and date without keeping him waiting for hours," the central agency said in a statement.

"Considering the nature of offence of money laundering, where a person is able to dissipate, transfer, or conceal crime proceeds and destroy digital evidence, within shortest period of time through online instructions... investigating officers should endeavour to conclude the examination of the person summoned expeditiously, ideally on the same day or the following day. This approach may minimise the opportunity to the person summoned either to transfer or conceal proceeds of crime or to fabricate, make believe and concocted explanations. However, efforts should be made to record statement of a person summoned during earthly hours i.e. during office hours rather than stretching it too late at night," it said.

"... In exceptional cases, if there is credible information that a person may conceal or dissipate crime proceeds... an authorised officer may extend statement recording beyond regular hours. The officer must document the reason in the case file and obtain approval from the deputy, joint, or additional director," it said.

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued new internal guidelines for officers regarding the recording of statements under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- Following a Bombay High Court order, the guidelines emphasize the importance of conducting interviews during office hours rather than late at night. Officers are instructed to be well-prepared with necessary documents and a questionnaire for the summoned individuals, aiming to minimize waiting times. The ED stresses the need for swift examinations, ideally completing them within one or two days, to prevent the possibility of individuals hiding or transferring illicit funds.

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Brazil second BRICS nation after India to say no to China's BRI

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, OCTOBER 29

IN A major setback to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Brazil has decided against joining Beijing's multi-billion-dollar initiative becoming the second country after India in the BRICS bloc not to endorse the mega project.

Brazil, headed by President Lula da Silva, will not join the BRI and instead seek alternative ways to collaborate with Chinese investors, Celso Amorim, special presidential adviser for international affairs, said Monday.

Brazil wants to "take the relationship with China to a new level, without having to sign an accession contract", he told Brazilian newspaper *O Globo*.

"We are not entering into a treaty," Amorim said, explaining that Brazil does not want to take Chinese infrastructure and trade projects as "an insurance policy".

According to Amorim, the aim is to use some of the Belt and Road framework to find "synergy" between Brazilian infrastructure projects and the investment funds associated with the initiative, without necessarily formally joining the group, the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* quoted him as saying. The Chinese

EXPLAINED E India's concern & debt trap

INDIA HAS protested against China for building the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, stated to be the flagship project of the BRI through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in violation of its sovereignty. China also faced criticism that the BRI projects in smaller countries like Sri Lanka, especially for its take-over of the Hambantota for a 99-year lease as a debt swap turned out to be debt traps resulting in a deep financial crisis in both smaller countries.

they can give whatever names they want, but what matters is that there are projects that Brazil has defined as a priority and that may or may not be accepted [by Beijing], Amorim said. The decision contradicts China's plans to make Brazil's joining of the initiative a centrepiece of Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to

- Brazil has opted not to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), becoming the second BRICS country after India to reject the multi-billion-dollar project.
- Brazil aims to explore synergies between its infrastructure priorities and Chinese investment without signing a treaty, viewing the BRI as not beneficial in the short term and potentially complicating future relations with the U.S.

The Belt and Road project was started to revive connectivity, trade, and infrastructure along what was China's ancient Silk Road. China had announced a two-pronged approach of building a Silk Road Economic Belt on Land and a maritime 21st century Silk Road. The project initially aimed to strengthen connectivity with Southeast Asia but later expanded to South and Central Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America

What is the UN agency for Palestinian refugees that Israel has banned?

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

ISRAEL'S PARLIAMENT on Monday passed two Bills to ban the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) from operating in Israel and the Palestinian territories. The Knesset also voted to designate UNRWA a terrorist organisation, cutting all ties with the agency.

The vote could result in the collapse of the already fragile aid distribution mechanism in Gaza, where almost 2 million Palestinians have been displaced, and food, water, and medicine are in short supply.

What is the UNRWA, and what role does it play?

The UNRWA was established in 1949 to provide aid to about 700,000 Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes dur-

ing the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

UNRWA began operations on May 1, 1950. It operates in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, as well as in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan – where Palestinian refugees took shelter after their expulsion.

According to the UNRWA's website, it runs education, health, relief and social services, microfinance and emergency assistance programmes inside and outside refugee camps in these areas.

An estimated 5.9 million Palestinian refugees – most of whom are descendants of the original refugees – currently access the UNRWA's services.

The UN agency is funded mostly by voluntary contributions from donor states such as the United States, Germany, the European Union, etc. It also gets a limited subsidy from the UN, which is used only for administrative costs.

UNRWA employs some 30,000

Palestinians. More than 200 of its staff members have been killed in Israeli attacks over the past year.

So why has Israel acted against the UNRWA?

Israel has argued for decades that the UNRWA's role is obsolete, and its work to aid Palestinian refugees and their descendants has been an impediment to a peace settlement.

However, critics have blamed Israel's own actions, such as not meaningfully recognising the foundation of a Palestinian state, as having perpetuated the longstanding territorial conflict.

Israel has also accused some of UNRWA's 13,000 employees in Gaza of participating in the October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel by Hamas that triggered the war. Israel has given the US a dossier identifying

12 UNRWA staffers who it says took part in the October 7 attacks. According to Israel, most of these alleged attackers worked as teachers in UNRWA schools. It claims to have evidence that UNRWA employed 190 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants.

Although UNRWA fired nine employees after an investigation, it has denied that it aids armed groups on purpose – the agency has been sharing the list of its employees with Israel for a long time.

EXPLAINED
GLOBAL

What are the two Bills that Israel has passed?

One of the Bills bars UNRWA from operating any representative office, providing any service, or conducting any activity, directly or indirectly in Israel's sovereign territory.

The second Bill cuts all ties between government employees and UNRWA, and

takes away the legal immunities of the agency's staff.

Together, the Bills are likely to stop UNRWA from operating in Gaza and the West Bank as Israel controls access to both these Palestinian territories. They could also force the agency to relocate its headquarters from East Jerusalem, according to a report by the Associated Press.

The Bills were passed by overwhelming majorities in the 120-member parliament. Lawmakers from at least two centrist parties joined Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition in voting for the Bills, demonstrating broad support for the measures.

What can be the impact of these measures?

Most of the provisions in the Bills will take effect after three months.

Since the beginning of the war, almost

all of Gaza's 2 million people have been reliant on UNRWA for basic necessities, including food, water, and hygiene supplies.

Along with the Palestinian Red Crescent, UNRWA handles almost all UN aid distribution in the territory.

The UN agency also recently helped implement an emergency polio vaccination campaign in Gaza to prevent the infectious virus that can cause paralysis from spreading.

In the West Bank, UNRWA currently provides services for 19 refugee camps, more than 90 schools, and several health services, including prenatal care, according to a report by CNN.

In a post on X, UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said on Monday that the ban set "a dangerous precedent" and would "only deepen the suffering of Palestinians".

"This is the latest in the ongoing campaign to discredit UNRWA," Lazzarini said.

- Israel's parliament on Monday passed two Bills to **ban the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) from operating in Israel** and the Palestinian territories.
- The vote could result in the collapse of the already fragile aid distribution mechanism in Gaza, where almost 2 million Palestinians have been displaced, and food, water, and medicine are in short supply.

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Dhanvantari's relevance to Dhanteras & Ayurveda Day

YASHEE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi launched several health-related projects worth almost Rs 12,850 crore on Tuesday, national Ayurveda Day, and also the festival of Dhanteras. Ayurveda Day is celebrated on Dhanvantari Jayanti, believed to be the birth anniversary of Dhanvantari, the heavenly physician and Puranic god of ayurveda, who is sometimes regarded as an incarnation of Vishnu.



A depiction of Dhanvantari.
[Wikimedia Commons](#)

Ayurveda & Ayurveda Day

Ayurveda is the ancient Indian system of medicine focused on holistic well-being. The government instituted the annual Ayurveda Day celebrations in 2016 to create awareness about ayurveda, which it described as the all-encompassing "knowledge of life".

The theme of Ayurveda Day 2024 is "Ayurveda Innovation for Global Health", with focus on four areas: women's health, workplace wellness, school wellness programmes, and food innovation.

"In India, the knowledge of Ayurveda is attributed to Dhanvantari, the divine physician who received this knowledge from Lord Brahma," the government said in an official release.

"Ayurveda Day honours Lord Dhanvantari's contributions, aiming to raise awareness about Ayurveda's foundational principles, healing practices, and lifestyle approaches," it said.

The logo of the National Medical Commission (NMC), the statutory regula-

holding scriptures and herbs.

According to the *Vishnu Purana*, Dhanvantari emerged during *samudra manthan*, the churning of the Ocean of Milk, bearing *amrit*, the nectar of immortality.

The *devas* and *asuras* had struck an alliance to obtain *amrit* together, which they were to share. The ocean was churned using the mountain Mandara as the rod and the serpent Vasuki as the churning rope.

"First, Dhanvantari appeared during the *samudra manthan*, and then Goddess Lakshmi who, after her appearance, chose to wed Lord Vishnu. Thus, on the day of Dhanteras, both Dhanvantari and Lakshmi are worshipped, for good health, prosperity, and all things auspicious," Dr Dipakbhai Jyotishacharya, who runs the Parashar Jyotishalaya in Gujarat's Vani, said.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched health projects worth nearly Rs 12,850 crore on October 29, coinciding with the ninth Ayurveda Day and Dhanteras.
- Ayurveda Day Celebrated on Dhanvantri Jayanti, marking the birth anniversary of Lord Dhanvantri, the divine physician and an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
- Initiated by the Indian government in 2016 to promote awareness of Ayurvedic principles, medicinal herbs, and healthy lifestyle practices.
- **Significance of Dhanvantri:** Dhanvantri emerged during the "samudra manthan" (churning of the ocean), bringing the pot of amrita (nectar of immortality).
- Worshipped on Dhanteras for good health and well-being. According to Hindu mythology, Dhanvantri was advised by Brahma to churn the ocean for amrita using the mountain Mandara and the serpent Vasuki.
- After Dhanvantri appeared, Lord Vishnu, disguised as Mohini, distributed the amrita to the Devas.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air –Places in news(GSI)

Chad: At Least 40 Soldiers Killed In Army Base Attack



In Chad, unidentified assailants killed at least 40 soldiers in an attack on a military base in the country's western region Barkaram last night

Capital: N'Djamena

Boundaries: Landlocked country in north-central Africa. It is bordered by **Cameroon in the south west**, by the **Central African Republic in south**, by **Libya in north**, by **Niger in west**, by **North Sudan in east** and it has a border with **Nigeria across Lake Chad**.

Highest point: Emi Koussi ,**Lowest Point:** Djourab Depression,**Major rivers:** Chari and the Logone.**Major lake:** Lake Chad

