

DAILY PT POINTERS

4th October, 2024



The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

Caste bias, segregation in prisons violate dignity: SC

Central, State jail manuals and laws must be revised within three months, rules the Bench headed by CJI; it says distribution of work on the basis of caste amounts to untouchability

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declared that caste-based discrimination of prisoners, segregation of their work according to caste hierarchy, and the treatment of inmates from the de-notified tribes as “habitual offenders” within prison walls across India are oppressive to fundamental human dignity and personality.

The top court directed the revision of prison manuals within three months. It ordered the deletion of the ‘caste column’ and any references to caste from registers of undertrials and convicts maintained in prisons. The court underscored that members of de-

Removing bias

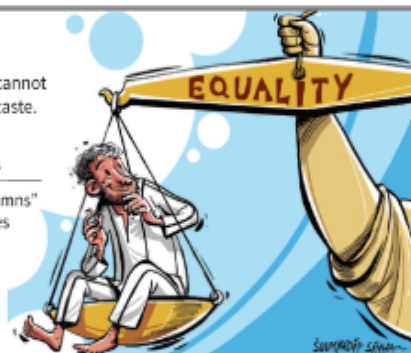
The Bench says “everyone is born equal” and cannot suffer lifelong due to stigma attached to their caste.

The directions include:

- States and UTs should revise their Prison Manuals/Rules in three months
- Centre should address caste-based discrimination in the Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023 in

three months

- “Caste columns” and references to caste in prisoners’ registers should be removed



subjected to arbitrary arrest.

‘Violates Constitution’

“Everyone is born equal. There cannot be any stigma attached to the existence, touch or presence of any person... More than 75 years since Independence, we have not been able to eradicate the evil of caste

discrimination,” judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

The CJI, who authored the judgment, referred to Article 15(1) of the Constitution which enshrines the fundamental right against discrimination. “But if the state itself discriminates against a citizen, then it is discrimination of the high-

est form. The state is expected to prevent discrimination, not perpetuate it,” he noted. He held that discrimination among prisoners and distribution of work on the basis of caste amounted to untouchability, which is forbidden under Article 17 of the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON

- The Supreme Court declared that caste-based discrimination of prisoners, segregation of their work according to caste hierarchy, and the treatment of inmates from the de-notified tribes as “habitual offenders” within prison walls across India are oppressive to fundamental human dignity and personality.
- The top court directed the revision of prison manuals within three months. It ordered the deletion of the ‘caste column’ and any references to caste from registers of undertrials and convicts maintained in prisons.
- The CJI, who authored the judgment, referred to Article 15(1) of the Constitution which enshrines the fundamental right against discrimination. “But if the state itself discriminates against a citizen, then it is discrimination of the highest form. After all, the state is expected to prevent discrimination, not perpetuate it,” he noted. He held that discrimination among prisoners and distribution of work on the basis of caste amounted to untouchability, which is forbidden under Article 17 of the Constitution.

The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

Marital relations must be exempt from rape provisions, Centre tells apex court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that punishing non-consensual sexual acts by a man with his own wife as 'rape' will impact conjugal relationship and lead to "serious disturbances" in the institution of marriage.

"The demographics of a marriage are *sui generis*. There are plenty of examples of male-female relationships. However, the relationship between a husband and wife, which emerges as a result of the tying of the matrimonial knot, is distinct from all of these relationships. To ignore or even to seek to undermine this is to ignore plain reality," the government argued.

The Union government was responding to a bunch



The Centre was responding to a bunch of PIL pleas before the SC seeking the criminalisation of marital rape. FILE PHOTO

of public interest litigation petitions seeking to strike down Exception 2 of Section 375 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The provision excludes non-consensual sexual intercourse by a husband with his wife, if the latter is over 15 years of age, from the definition of 'rape'.

"In an institution of marriage, there exists a continuing expectation, by either of the spouses, to

have reasonable sexual access from the other. Though these expectations do not entitle the husband to coerce or force his wife into sex, against her will, they constitute a sufficient basis for the legislature to distinguish qualitatively between an incident of non-consensual sex within the marital sphere and without it," the affidavit filed through the Ministry of Home Affairs reasoned.

The government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said it was reasonable to exempt the relationship of marriage from "drastic penal and procedural rigours" of the rape provisions of the IPC.

'Excessively harsh'

"A husband certainly does not have any fundamental right to violate the consent of his wife. However, at-

tracting the crime in the nature 'rape' as recognised in India to the institution of marriage can be arguably considered to be excessively harsh and therefore, disproportionate," the government said.

It reasoned that marriage did not "obliterate" a woman's consent. It agreed that any violation of a woman's consent should indeed result in penal consequences. But there were provisions, other than rape, to protect her consent within marriage.

The Union government also argued that even if a law was framed in the future, it would have to balance between protecting the cherished concept of consent by a woman within the confines of marriage with the competing position of the "potential accused husband".

- The government argued that recognizing non-consensual sexual acts within a marriage as 'rape' could disrupt conjugal relationships and lead to serious disturbances in the institution of marriage.
- It contended that the marital relationship is unique and distinct from other male-female relationships. Ignoring this difference undermines the reality of marriage.
- The government was responding to public interest litigation challenging Exception 2 of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which excludes non-consensual intercourse by a husband with his wife (if she is over 15 years old) from the definition of rape.
- The government maintained that it was reasonable to exempt marriage from the penal and procedural rigors of rape laws, which would otherwise be "excessively harsh" and disproportionate.
- While the husband has no fundamental right to violate his wife's consent, labeling such acts as 'rape' within marriage was seen as disproportionately severe.

The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 4

Leopard population in Odisha's forests jumps by 22% to 696 in two years

Satvasundar Barik
Bhubaneswar

Some good news for wildlife enthusiasts: Odisha's leopard population has increased by 22%, rising from 568 to 696 in two years between 2022 and 2024, despite ongoing concerns about poaching and the illegal trade of leopard skins in the State.

The All Odisha Leopard Estimation 2024, released on Thursday, estimates the State's leopard population to range between 668 and 724, with a median count of 696.

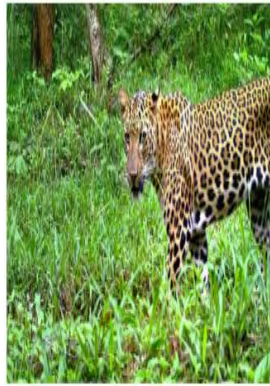
However, the present leopard population lags behind the 2018 census carried out by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which put Odisha's

big cats number at 760. In 2022, the population dropped to 568.

The Forest Department had conducted an estimation across 47 divisions, aimed at much more intensive State-level leopard monitoring. A State-wide field survey was also conducted to identify the presence of leopards through various signs, including pug marks, scrapes, scats, rakes, urine spray, vocalisations, and livestock depredation.

Camera trap

"Sites with confirmed direct or indirect evidence of leopard were monitored using camera traps to estimate the minimum number of unique adult leopards based on their



Smile, big cat: A leopard captured by cameras installed in a forest in Odisha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

distinctive rosette patterns. Camera trap identification of leopard is a scientifically recognised method and is used in national-level leopard population assessments," says Susant Nanda, Principal

Chief Conservator of For-

est (Wildlife), said: "The big cat population is healthy. In 2022, the estimation was taken up in a limited area while we had taken up the estimation in much larger area capturing leopards in camera traps. We could discover many melanistic leopards in our

forests."

As per the latest NTCA report, the leopard population in India stands at 13,874. The leopard population has dwindled by 75-90% across the country over the last 120-200 years. According to Wildlife Protection Society of India, around 1,485 leopards were poached in the country in the last 10 years.

As per the information furnished by the Forest and Environment Department in the Assembly, as many as 59 leopard skins were seized from wildlife smugglers between 2018 and 2023. Similarly, a Special Task Force (STF) of the State police has recovered 57 leopard skins from poachers and wildlife article dealers from 2019 to

2024. Overall, 116 leopards were killed and their skins taken. Wildlife experts said in dozens of cases, leopard skins might have reached their destinations unnoticed and unintercepted.

Forest cover

Odisha's forest cover accounts for 33.50% of the State's total geographic area. The State government said there is one national park, 19 wildlife sanctuaries and two conservation reserves in Odisha.

The latest population estimate report says, "Protected areas proved to be the regions with the highest leopard abundance. Similipal Tiger Reserve has the largest leopard population in Odisha. Due to its

extensive size, Similipal landscape plays a crucial role as a source population for leopards in the surrounding region. It is connected to Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Kuldaha Wildlife Sanctuary, which are essential for leopards to disperse from Similipal to these other protected areas."

The report further states that Satkosia landscape turned out to be another promising site for leopards and boasts of the second highest leopard population in the State. Similarly, Hirakud Wildlife Division, which includes Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, is another key habitat for leopards and has a significant leopard population.

"As high as 45% of the leopard population in Odisha is located outside the protected area network and thus the territorial forest divisions have considerable leopard presence. The rare melanistic leopard morph was recorded from three forest divisions," it observes.

"From the next year, this camera trap based All Odisha Leopard Estimation exercise will be synchronised with the annual All Odisha Tiger Estimation exercise. This comprehensive exercise will involve collecting data on both the big cat occupancy, prey base estimation, and assessments of vegetation structure and human disturbance in the State," the Forest Department said.

- Odisha's leopard population has increased by 22%, rising from 568 to 696 in two years between 2022 and 2024, despite ongoing concerns about poaching and the illegal trade of leopard skins in the State. Nine subspecies of the leopard have been recognized, and they are distributed across Africa and Asia.
- The leopard is the smallest of the big cats, and known for its ability to adapt in a variety of habitats
- A nocturnal animal, the leopard hunts by night. It feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer and wild boar.
- In India, the leopard is found in all forest types, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests. It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, the only exception being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans.
- IUCN Status : Vulnerable

What is the status of the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0?

What are the various health and environmental risks arising from legacy waste dumpsites?

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

The story so far:

India has more than 3,000 legacy waste dumpsites, with 2,424 of them having a waste load of more than 1,000 tonnes. The Central government launched the legacy waste management project as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0 in October 2021, for a period of five years till 2026. However, more than halfway through the time period, only 471 out of the 2,424, that is 19.43% of dumpsites have been completely remediated.

What are legacy waste dumpsites?

Legacy waste dumpsites are dumpsites that contain solid waste that have been collected and stored for years in an unscientific and uncontrolled manner. Municipal solid waste generation in India is estimated to be around 1,50,000 tonnes per day, according to the State of India's Environment 2023 report. With almost no installed facility in India for handling solid

waste, the municipal corporations, municipal councils and *nagar* (city) panchayats have traditionally opted for creating man-made garbage hills.

These dumpsites originally developed on the outskirts of the cities. However, with the expansion of cities, these sites are now often found in the heart of cities on barren land or in landfills. According to estimates of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, approximately 15,000 acres of prime real estate is buried under nearly 16 crore tonnes of legacy waste across the country.

What are the health hazards?

Legacy waste dumpsites can pose a number of health hazards for citizens. Exposure to emissions from hazardous waste can irritate the mouth and throat. Inhaling methane from landfills can cause nausea, vomiting, and loss of coordination. Ragpickers who work at landfills can develop skin allergies from years of exposure to waste. People who live near landfills may be prone to

developing tuberculosis, asthma, diabetes, depression, cholera, malaria, and other diseases. They are also a source of greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane and carbon dioxide.

What is the Swachh Bharat Mission?

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) or Clean India Mission is a country-wide campaign launched by the Central government on October 2, 2014 to eliminate open defecation and to create Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages. The mission aimed to achieve an "open-defecation free" India by October 2, 2019 coinciding with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi through the construction of toilets.

In 2021, the Government launched its second edition – the five-year Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), committing to making all cities "garbage-free cities" by 2026, while maintaining ODF status across 4,372 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). It also has a vision of 100% source segregation, door

to door collection and scientific management of all fractions of waste, including safe disposal in scientific landfills. The SBM 2.0 aims to remediate all legacy dumpsites and convert them into green zones. The mission has also made provisions for scientific landfills to dispose of untreated inert waste and process rejects, in order to prevent fresh dumpsites being created.

Action plans amounting to ₹3,226 crore of Central Share (CS) assistance on remediation of legacy waste dumpsites has been approved so far. An advisory has also been issued to the States/Union Territory administrations on landfill reclamation. As per financial norms of centrally sponsored schemes, State/ UT governments are required to put in a matching share from their own side, while disbursing the funds to respective ULBs.

What has been the progress so far?

According to the dashboard of the Swachh Bharat Mission website, as on September 24, out of the 2,424 dumpsites, 471 sites have been remediated, remediation in 1,226 has been approved and is on-going, and 727 sites have been untouched. As far as area is concerned, of the total 17,039.71 acres, 27% has been reclaimed and 73% is yet to be reclaimed.

Among States, Tamil Nadu has the maximum area reclaimed from dumpsites at 837 acres (42%). Gujarat is the best performing State with 75% area (698 out of 938 acres) of landfills reclaimed.

- As part of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, launched in 2021, the government aims to remediate these dumpsites by 2026, converting them into green zones. Despite this effort, only 19.43% (471 out of 2,424) of the dumpsites have been fully remediated as of September 2024. Remediation is ongoing at 1,226 sites, while 727 remain untouched. Tamil Nadu has reclaimed the most area (837 acres), and Gujarat leads in percentage reclaimed, having restored 75% of its landfill area.
- The mission seeks to make all cities "garbage-free" by improving waste management practices and preventing the creation of new dumpsites.

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USCIRF flags India's 'collapsing religious freedom'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

'Biased organisation, malicious report'

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), a Washington DC-based bipartisan U.S. federal government agency, has released a country update on India, flagging "collapsing religious freedom conditions".

The report highlights that religious freedom conditions have "continued to worsen throughout 2024, particularly in the months prior to and immediately following the country's national elections". Offering an overview of the various religious freedom violations that took place in 2024, it details changes in legal framework, including the strengthening of "discriminatory legislation like state-level anti-conversion and anti-terrorism laws", as well as the publication

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom should utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the U.S.

"Our views on the United States Commission

of the rules for implementing the 2019 Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), and the passing of a State-level Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in Uttarakhand.

Ram temple issue

In a section titled "Expropriation and demolition of places of worship and Mus-

lim property", the report notes "since the beginning of 2024, Indian authorities have facilitated the expropriation of places of worship, including the construction of Hindu temples on the sites of mosques". It details how the days following the Ayodhya temple's January 2024 conse-

crucation "were marked by a series of attacks and other instances of intolerance against religious minorities across six states", noting, "in each instance, violence erupted following Hindu nationalist processions through predominantly Muslim neighbourhoods".

The report notes the trend of authorities using State-level policies, especially anti-conversion laws, "to target religious minorities", detailing that "since the beginning of the year, authorities have arrested dozens of Christians on allegations of conducting or participating in forced conversions".

further," he added.

Mr. Jaiswal was responding to queries on the report.

"We would urge USCIRF to desist from such agenda-driven efforts. The USCIRF would also be well advised to utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States," he said.

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It is a biased organisation with a political agenda," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"It continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves to discredit USCIRF

The USCIRF also recommended that the U.S. State Department designate India "as a Country of Particular Concern" for "engaging in severe religious freedom violations".

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Marathi, Bengali among five granted classical language status by Union Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit.

The demand for classical status for Marathi has been pending since 2013 and the approval comes just ahead of the Assembly election in Maharashtra. The approval for Bengali comes amid Durga Puja, the biggest festival in West Bengal.

India has had six classical languages till now – Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sanskrit, and Odia. Tamil was the first language to be given classical status in 2004, followed by Sanskrit in 2005.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X to congratulate all speakers of the newly designated classical languages. "Marathi is India's pride. Congratulations on this phenomenal language being accorded the status of a Classical Language. This honour acknowledges the rich cultural contribution of Marathi in our nation's history," he said.

"Bengali literature has inspired countless people for years. I congratulate all

Till now, India had 6 classical languages – Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sanskrit, Odia

er the world on this," he added.

According to the Union Culture Ministry, the criteria for bestowing classical status was revised by the Linguistics Experts Committee, chaired by the Sahitya Akademi president, in a meeting in July.

The *Hindu* had reported on July 8 that the Central government was all set to tweak the criteria.

The Linguistics Expert Committee comprises of representatives of the Union Ministries of Home, Culture, and four or five linguistic experts at any given time.

Once a language is notified as a classical language, the Education Ministry provides certain benefits to promote it which includes two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the said languages, a Centre of Excellence for studies in classical languages and the University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start

Universities, a certain number of professional chairs for the classical languages.

"The inclusion will create significant employment opportunities, particularly in academic and research fields. Additionally, the preservation, documentation, and digitisation of ancient texts of these languages will generate jobs in archiving, translation, publishing, and digital media," the Ministry said in a statement.

Welcoming the move, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde tweeted, "Finally, Marathi language has been given the status of classical language. This battle has been successful. Maharashtra government had continuously followed up with the Centre for this. I thank PM Narendra Modi ji, Home Minister Amit Shah ji, Cultural Affairs Minister Gajendrasinha Shekhawat ji. Several Marathi speaking people, Marathi intellectuals, linguists, writers, critics have helped in this. A heartfelt thank you!"

Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis said, "It is a golden moment and a historic day. This is a very proud moment! Eternally thankful to time Minister

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The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 14

All agri sector initiatives brought under 2 new schemes; States to implement them

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday decided to merge all Central schemes in the agriculture sector into two new schemes, Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY). With a projected expenditure of ₹1,01,321.61 crore, the schemes will have a Central share of ₹69,088.98 crore and the States will have to add the remaining ₹32,232.63 crore.

The PM-RKVY, with an allocation of ₹57,074.72 crore, is aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and the KY will address food security and agricultural self-sufficiency, with a fund of ₹44,246.89 crore. Both schemes will be implemented through the State governments.

The Centre said the rationalisation of various schemes was to avoid duplication, ensure convergence, and provide flexibility to States.

Focusing on emergent challenges of agriculture such as nutrition security, sustainability, climate resilience, value chain development, and private sector participation is also envisaged under the two schemes.

“State governments will be able to draw a comprehensive strategic plan suiting their requirements for agriculture sector. Annual Action Plan (AAP) of States can be approved in one go rather than approving them individually,” the Centre said.

Schemes such as Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development, Agro Forestry, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas

Yojana will be merged in the two new schemes.

Mission for edible oils

The Cabinet also approved the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), for boosting domestic oilseed production and achieving self-reliance in edible oils.

“The Mission will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31, with a financial outlay of ₹10,103 crore. The newly approved NMEO-Oilseeds will focus on enhancing the production of key primary oilseed crops such as rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, and sesame, as well as increasing collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources like cottonseed, rice bran, and tree borne oils,” the Centre said. The mission aims to increase

primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.

India to join energy hub

The Cabinet also approved the signing of a letter of intent enabling India to join the Energy Efficiency Hub. “This move solidifies India’s commitment to sustainable development and aligns with its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” the Centre said.

The Union Cabinet also approved payment of productivity-linked bonus of 78 days for ₹2,028.57 crore to 11,72,240 non-gazetted railway employees. The amount will be paid to various categories of railway staff like track maintainers, loco pilots, train managers, station masters, supervisors, technicians, ministerial staff and other Group C staff.

The Union Cabinet has made several key decisions regarding agricultural schemes and related initiatives:

Merger of Agricultural Schemes:

All Central agriculture schemes will be consolidated into two new schemes:

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY): Allocated ₹57,074.72 crore to promote sustainable agriculture.

Krishonnati Yojana (KY): Funded with ₹44,246.89 crore to address food security and agricultural self-sufficiency.

The total projected expenditure for both schemes is ₹1,01,321.61 crore, with a Central share of ₹69,088.98 crore and a State contribution of ₹32,232.63 crore.

Objectives of New Schemes:

Aims to avoid duplication, ensure convergence, and provide flexibility for States.

Focuses on nutrition security, sustainability, climate resilience, value chain development, and private sector participation.

Indian Express-IR(GSII)-Page 1

UK cedes Chagos Islands' sovereignty to Mauritius, keeps base; India hails deal

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

BRITAIN ON Thursday agreed to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands — an archipelago of over 60 islands in the Indian Ocean — to Mauritius, in a deal to secure the future of the strategically important UK-US military base on Diego Garcia, the largest in the chain of islands.

For the first time in over 50 years, the status of the base will be undisputed and legally secure, following a political agreement between the UK and

Mauritius, a British government statement said.

India “welcomed” the agreement, saying it “completes the decolonisation of Mauritius”.

Sources in New Delhi said India “played a quiet but important role in the background”. “It firmly backed the principled Mauritian position, supporting its stance on the need to do away with the last vestiges of colonisation. At the same time, it

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EXPLAINED
PAGE 17

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Indian Express-IR(GSII)-Page 15

Bangladesh, Nepal, India sign pact to facilitate cross-border power trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 3

NEPAL, INDIA and Bangladesh on Thursday signed a long-awaited tripartite agreement to facilitate cross-border electricity trade, officials here said.

As per the agreement, Nepal will export its surplus electricity to Bangladesh via India annually during the rainy season, from June 15 to November 15.

Nepal will use India's transmission line to distribute electricity through its territory to Bangladesh. In the first phase, Nepal will export 40 MW of hydroelectricity to Bangladesh via Indian territory.

The rate per unit of electricity has been fixed at 6.4 cents. From the export of electricity, Nepal will make an annual income of around \$9.2 million, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) officials said.



Electricity will be exported to Bangladesh via the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur 400 KV transmission line, with the metering point in Muzaffarpur.

On December 6, 2023, Bangladesh's Cabinet Economic Affairs Committee approved to import 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal.

The agreement was originally scheduled for July 28, which was postponed due to political turmoil and a change of government in Bangladesh.

- Nepal, India and Bangladesh signed a tripartite agreement to facilitate cross-border electricity trade, officials here said.
- As per the agreement, Nepal will export its surplus electricity to Bangladesh via India from June 15 to November 15 every year. India will make arrangements to supply electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh. In the first phase, Nepal will export 40 MW of hydroelectricity to Bangladesh via Indian territory.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB:Environment(GSIII)

Cabinet



Cabinet approves India to Join International Energy Efficiency Hub by signing the Letter of Intent

Decision will help India gain access to an exclusive 16 nation group sharing strategic energy practices and innovative solutions

Posted On: 03 OCT 2024 8:25PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of 'Letter of Intent' thus enabling India to join the 'Energy Efficiency Hub'.

India will join the International Energy Efficiency Hub (Hub), a global platform dedicated to fostering collaboration and promoting energy efficiency worldwide. This move solidifies India's commitment to sustainable development and aligns with its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Established in 2020 as the successor to the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), in which India was a member, the Hub brings together governments, international organizations, and private sector entities to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions. By joining the Hub, India will gain access to a vast network of experts and resources, enabling it to enhance its domestic energy efficiency initiatives. As of July, 2024, sixteen countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United States and United Kingdom) have joined the Hub.