

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

‘Central law to tackle crimes against health workers not needed’

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The National Task Force (NTF) report filed in the Supreme Court in the *suo motu* case concerning the R.G. Kar rape and murder case has said there is no need to enact a “separate Central law” to protect healthcare professionals.

The NTF said States had enough laws to keep healthcare professionals safe. Besides, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, could take care of heinous offences committed against doctors and medical staff, the report said. “It has been observed that State laws have adequate provisions to address day-to-day minor offences, and serious offences

The National Task Force said States have enough laws to keep healthcare professionals safe

with the question whether enforcement mechanism under existing laws need strengthening.

“It is noted that 24 States have already enacted laws to address violence against healthcare professionals, whereby the terms ‘healthcare professional’ and ‘medical professional’ have also been defined. Two more States have already introduced their Bills in this regard. Most of the State laws cover minor offences and prescribe punishment

The National Task Force (NTF) has concluded that there is no need for a separate central law specifically to protect healthcare professionals.

State Laws are Sufficient:

- The NTF believes that existing state laws are adequate to safeguard healthcare professionals. They have enough provisions to address both minor and serious offences.

Role of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:

- The NTF points out that the recently enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, is sufficient to address serious or heinous crimes committed against healthcare workers.

State Laws Cover Minor Offences:

- 24 states have enacted laws that address violence against healthcare professionals. These laws define terms such as 'healthcare professional' and 'medical professional,' and cover minor offences with appropriate penalties.

The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 1

India says climate finance is not an 'investment goal'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

At the ongoing COP-29 negotiations in Azerbaijan's Baku, India stated that climate finance – the money that's necessary to incentivise and facilitate developing countries' adoption of renewable energy sources over fossil fuels – should not be seen as "investment goals" by developed countries.

"Climate finance cannot be changed into an investment goal when it is a unidirectional provision and mobilisation goal from the developed to the developing countries. The Paris Agreement is clear on who is to provide and mobilise the climate finance – it is the developed countries," said a statement by India's lead negotiator, Naresh Pal Gangwar, late on Thursday. The statement was formally made public by the Union Environment



Green image: Women posing for a picture by the logo of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku on Friday. REUTERS

Currently, \$5-6.8 trillion worth of climate finance until 2030 is being mooted at Baku.

Several technical issues are being deliberated upon at Baku. The key moment, however, that the hundreds of negotiators are working upon is the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG). This is an estimate of the money that developing countries will collectively require from developed countries to adapt to

renewable sources without compromising on developmental needs.

The existing estimate, agreed upon in 2009, was to mobilise and deliver \$100 billion annually from 2020-2025 but was fulfilled – not to universal agreement – only in 2022. However, in 2021, the countries collectively decided to increase it.

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INDIA VOICES DISSENT

India's intervention at COP29 in Baku on climate finance:

- India emphasized that climate finance should not be viewed as an "investment goal" by developed countries. It is a one-way provision from developed to developing countries, as per the Paris Agreement.
Developed Countries' Responsibility:
- India's lead negotiator, Naresh Pal Gangwar, reiterated that developed countries are responsible for providing and mobilising climate finance, as stated in the Paris Agreement.
Current and Future Climate Finance Estimates:
- At COP29, discussions are centered around the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), which estimates the financial support developing countries need for climate adaptation and renewable energy transition. The previous goal of mobilising \$100 billion annually was only partially met in 2022.

The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 4

Probe team set up to bust inter-State gang involved in *Taruner Swapno* scheme

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA



An inter-State gang is involved in the fraud of direct benefit transfer of West Bengal's *Taruner Swapno* scheme where funds meant for students for buying tablets and smartphones have been siphoned off to other accounts, the State police said on Friday.

As per the latest information, 93 cases have been registered, 11 people have been arrested and funds meant for 1,911 beneficiaries have been transferred to other

and one from Chopra in Uttar Dinajpur district.

According to the police, the funds under the *Taruner Swapno* Scheme were transferred to 16 lakh students, but based on the FIRs 1,911 students have not received funds, which is about 0.1% of the total beneficiaries.

(Bengal and tough)

beneficiaries. Since most of the arrests have been of residents of Chopra and Malda, speculations are rife that these places may have a direct link with the scam. The investigators have refused to elaborate more on the modus operandi but added that Chopra and Malda may be linked with the fraud cartel hub.

The State government's

- The State government's *Taruner Swapno* Scheme is aimed to bridge the digital divide among students of West Bengal by providing financial assistance to students to buy smartphones and tablets.
- Under this scheme a one time grant of ₹10,000 is transferred into the bank account of students at higher secondary classes.
- In the financial year 2024-25 the West Bengal government has allocated about ₹900 crore for the scheme. .

The Hindu-History(GSI) -Page 8

Modi unveils development projects worth ₹6,650 cr. for tribal welfare in Bihar

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched multiple development projects worth ₹6,650 crore, mostly for tribal welfare and development, during the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of tribal leader Bhagwan Birsa Munda in Bihar's Jamui district on Friday.

Earlier on November 13, Mr. Modi had visited Darbhanga district to lay the foundation stone for an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the second AIIMS hospital in Bihar.

"Those whom no one cares about, Modi worships them," the Prime Minister said on the occasion of *Janjatiya Gaurav Divas*, in a reference to the tribal population.

Mr. Modi also spent half an hour at a *haat* (market) viewing articles made by the tribal people.

Jamui district shares a border with the neighbouring State of Jharkhand where the second phase of polling for the Assembly election is scheduled to be



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets a descendant of Birsa Munda, Budhran Munda, on Friday. ANI

government that we could make a woman from the tribal community, Droupadi Murmu, the President of India. Nitish Kumar ji [Bihar Chief Minister] had also endorsed the move wholeheartedly and backed Ms. Murmu's candidature", the Prime Minister added.

Coin, stamp issued

Mr. Modi said the NDA government at the Centre had enhanced the budget for tribal welfare "five times", while announcing that the Birsa Munda *Janjatiya Gaurav Divas* would

memory of the tribal icon. He also listed several development and welfare initiatives being undertaken the tribal community.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and top state BJP leaders were present on the occasion.

"Earlier, we had made mistakes but we are not going anywhere now... we will remain here [NDA] forever," asserted Mr. Kumar, whose party Janata Dal (United) had switched loyalties from the BJP-led NDA to the RJD-led Maha-

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched multiple development projects worth ₹6,650 crore, mostly for tribal welfare and development, during the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of tribal leader Bhagwan Birsa Munda in Bihar's Jamui district
- Born in 1875 in present-day Jharkhand, Munda had challenged British rule and is credited with mobilising tribals against the empire. He died in British custody at a young age of 25 years.
 - Since 2021, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary is being observed as *Janjatiya Gaurav Divas* to remember the sacrifices of unsung tribal heroes.

The Hindu-IR(GSII)

Imports from the UAE rose 70% in October to \$7.2 billion

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's imports from its free trade agreement partner UAE have jumped by 70.37% year-on-year to \$7.2 billion in October, leaving a trade deficit of about \$3.5 billion during that month, as per Commerce Ministry data.

The deficit, the difference between imports and exports, was \$2.47 billion in September.

Cumulatively also, the imports from the UAE during April-October rose by 55.1% to \$38.64 billion against \$24.91 billion in the same period previous fiscal, while exports were up

\$20.93 billion compared to \$18 billion in April-October 2023-24. Trade deficit during the seven-month period has widened to \$17.71 billion from \$6.85 billion in the same period a year ago.

The FTA between India and the UAE came into effect in May 2022.

Rising imports

According to the data, India's imports from UAE rose by 49.22% to \$5.38 billion in September and \$72.7 to \$6.38 billion in August. Exports, on the other hand, increased by 23.75% to \$2.91 billion in September and 3.16% to \$2.84 billion in August.

In a recent meeting last

concerns over the jump in imports of silver products, platinum alloy, and dry dates from the UAE and urged the country to ensure that the rules are not circumvented under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Emirates has agreed to examine concerns raised by the Indian counterparts.

The UAE is the third-largest trading partner of India with \$83.65 billion bilateral trade in 2023-24.

Major goods imported from the UAE include mineral oil, chemicals, essential oils and perfumes, precious and semi-precious stones, iron and steel products, copper, nickel and

India's imports from the UAE surged by 70.37% year-on-year to \$7.2 billion in October 2024, contributing to a trade deficit of \$3.5 billion for the month. This was a notable rise from the \$2.47 billion deficit in September.

The trade deficit for the seven-month period widened to \$17.71 billion, compared to \$6.85 billion in the same period of 2023.

Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

The India-UAE Free Trade Agreement (FTA) took effect in May 2022, which is likely contributing to increased trade between the two nations.

- Key imports include mineral oil, chemicals, essential oils, perfumes, and precious stones.
- India raised concerns about rising imports of silver products, platinum alloy, and dry dates from the UAE, urging that the FTA's rules not be circumvented.

Bilateral Trade:

The UAE remains India's third-largest trading partner, with total bilateral trade reaching \$83.65 billion in 2023-24.

As senior living sector grows in India, a 25-year-old policy set to get a refresh

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15

THE MINISTRY of Social Justice and Empowerment is working on amending the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and updating the National Policy for Older Persons, 1999 to promote India's senior care economy, including the senior living sector.

Speaking at an event organised by the Association of Senior Living India (ASLI), Secretary Amit Yadav highlighted the need to address challenges around property rights and the key role of the private sector in developing senior living in India.

"Right now, the ministry is working on two areas. We had come out with a policy in 1999 on senior citizens. Now, we are in a position where, after wide consultations with stakeholders, the new policy is in the making. It will give us a direction for the next 25

velopers, and operators. In their current form, both policy and legislation deal primarily with old age homes supported by state or local governments. However, the senior living market now encompasses a much broader array of players, services, unit types, and a new dynamic between buyers, developers, and operators.

60% of the market concentrated in South

The share of citizens aged 60-plus is set to increase from 157 million in 2024 (11 per cent of total population) to 260 million in 2040 (16 per cent) and 346 million in 2050 (21 per cent). "The challenge is the growing numbers. (The government) has to work with the private sector... The other thing is the feminization (of senior population), as people above 60 are more women and widows than men because the life expectancy for women is much higher than for men," Yadav said.

Since 2022, senior living

Covai Care, account for 81 per cent of India's total senior living inventory. Moreover, 81 per cent of launched units are priced between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore and 86 per cent are sized between 500 to 1,500 square feet. The demand for senior living units is set to touch 2.3 million units by 2030 compared to 1.6 million units in 2024.

"By 2050, one in every five Indians will be a senior. That represents about 70 per cent of the world's population of seniors. It's a very large and staggering number. Life expectancy has gone up in India, fortunately, but so has the disease burden. As you grow older, there are four I's—instability, immobility, impairment and incontinence," Rajit Mehta, ASLI Chairman and CEO of Antara Senior Living said.

Mehta added that post-Covid, seniors are increasingly seeking an active lifestyle and have also become very digitally savvy. "They also want people to curate serv-

deals with issues of social justice, health, housing, and infrastructure. He added that a taskforce can also be created to study best practices followed in countries like Japan and Switzerland, where senior care is very developed.

Mehta also suggested that when master planning is done for cities, land should be demarcated separately for senior living so that allocation is easier and costs more manageable. Anticipating rapid expansion in the senior living segment, policymakers and regulators are moving quickly. In February, the government's apex think tank NITI Aayog released a report recommending reforms, including accreditation for senior care facilities and a single window approval for fast-track projects. The latter recommendation is especially crucial, given the time-sensitive needs of senior buyers and the real estate sector's reputation for long delays in handing over possession.

Moreover, in March, the social

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is amending the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, and updating the National Policy for Older Persons, 1999, to enhance India's senior care economy, including the senior living sector. Key points include:

Amendments: Both the 1999 policy and the 2007 act are being updated to address current challenges and promote private sector involvement in senior living.

Growth: The senior population in India is projected to increase significantly, with the senior living market seeing a rise in launches, especially in South India.

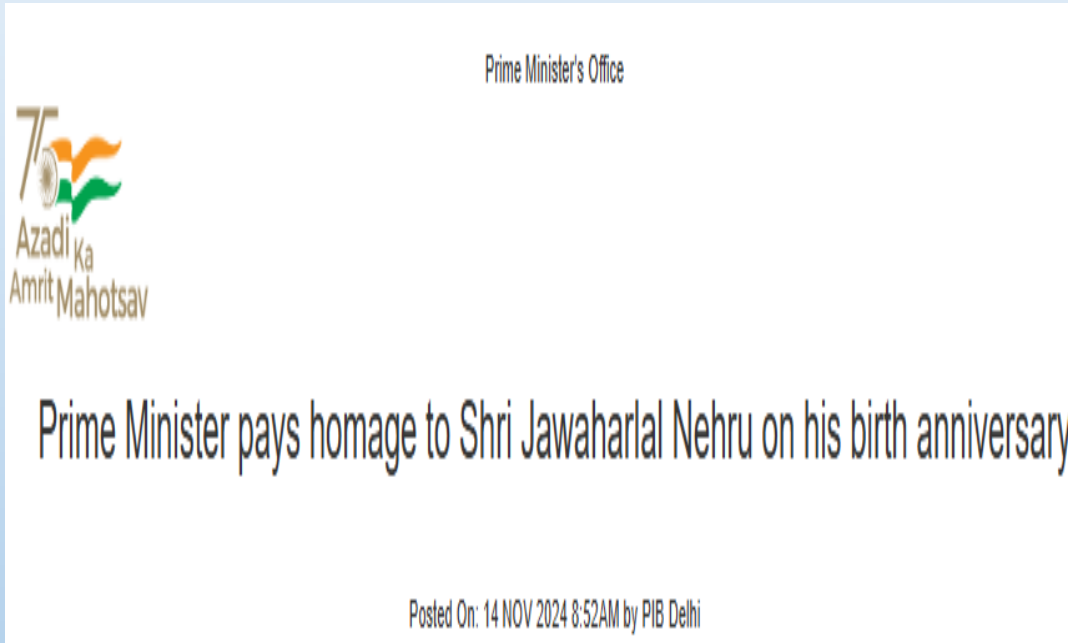
Private Sector Role: Emphasis on property rights and the necessity of private sector involvement in developing senior living facilities.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-History(GSI)



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today paid homage to former Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on his birth anniversary.

- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, was a central figure in India's struggle for independence.
- Educated in England, he joined the freedom movement upon returning to India in 1912, inspired by global anti-colonial movements and Mahatma Gandhi.
- Nehru became a key leader in the Non-Cooperation Movement, was imprisoned multiple times, and advocated for complete independence during the 1929 Lahore Congress.
- He played a crucial role in movements like the Salt Satyagraha and Quit India resolution. Nehru served as President of the Indian National Congress and supported the Indian National Army. He became India's first Prime Minister after independence.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Science and Tech(GSIII)



- Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), launched Operation Dronagiri, a pilot project under the National Geospatial Policy 2022, to demonstrate the applications of geospatial technologies in improving citizens' quality of life and business ease. The launch took place at the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi.

Key Highlights:

First Phase: Implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra, focusing on Agriculture, Livelihoods, Logistics, and Transport.

Support: Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI) unveiled to facilitate data sharing for urban planning, disaster management, and more.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Culture(GSI)

Bali Jatra Begins In Odisha To Celebrate Ancient Sea-Trading History



Bali Jatra (Voyage to Bali) celebrates Odisha's rich maritime history and India's ancient connections with Southeast Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific.

It honors the long-standing maritime journeys made by Indian seafarers over thousands of years, strengthening cultural and civilizational links between India and these regions.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Health(GSII)

Measles Cases Surge Worldwide, Infecting 10.3 Million People In 2023: WHO



**World Health
Organization**

- The World Health Organization has reported a significant surge in measles cases worldwide in 2023. According to a newly released report by the WHO, 10.3 million cases of measles were reported globally last year, an increase of 20 percent from 2022..
Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads easily when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes. It can cause severe disease, complications, and even death.
- Measles can affect anyone but is most common in children.
- Measles infects the respiratory tract and then spreads throughout the body. Symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose and a rash all over the body.
- Being vaccinated is the best way to prevent getting sick with measles or spreading it to other people. The vaccine is safe and helps your body fight off the virus.