

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-IR(GSII)-Page 1

India and Nigeria will join hands to tackle terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking: PM

Press Trust of India
Agence France-Presse
ABUJA

India accords high priority to its strategic partnership with Nigeria and it will work towards boosting ties in a range of areas, including defence, energy and trade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during talks with Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu here on Sunday.

In his televised opening remarks at the meeting, Mr. Modi identified terrorism, separatism, piracy and drug trafficking as major challenges, and said the two countries would continue to work together to deal with them.

Mr. Modi arrived in Abuja early on Sunday on the first trip to the country by an Indian Prime Minister after 17 years. "We give high priority to our strategic



Strong ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at an exchange of agreements in Abuja. PTI

ic partnership with Nigeria... I am confident that a new chapter in our ties will begin following our talks," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Modi described the nearly 60,000-strong Indian expatriate community as a key pillar of India-Nigeria relations, and thanked Mr. Tinubu for ensuring their welfare.

The Prime Minister announced that India was

sending 20 tonnes of relief supplies for Nigerian people affected by last month's floods.

He referred to the African Union becoming a permanent member of the G-20 at the India-hosted summit of the grouping last year and described it as a significant outcome.

CONTINUED ON

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the importance of India's strategic partnership with Nigeria during talks with Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Abuja.
- The two leaders discussed boosting ties in areas such as defence, energy, and trade, while also addressing shared challenges like terrorism, separatism, piracy, and drug trafficking.
- Modi highlighted the role of Nigeria's 60,000-strong Indian expatriate community in strengthening bilateral relations and thanked Tinubu for supporting their welfare. He also announced the dispatch of 20 tonnes of flood relief supplies to Nigeria. Modi's visit marked the first trip by an Indian Prime Minister to Nigeria in 17 years. He further noted the significance of the African Union's inclusion as a permanent member of the G-20 during the 2023 India-hosted summit.

The Hindu-Science and Tech(GSIII)-Page 1

India conducts 'historic' flight test of hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday announced the successful flight test of its maiden long-range hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the flight test late on Saturday from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha coast, the latest in a series of missile tests in the past two months.

"The missile is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 km for all the services of the armed forces," the



High aims: Flight trial of the hypersonic missile being done off the coast of Odisha. PTI

DRDO said in a statement. "The missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains. The flight data obtained from down-range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal manoeuvres and impact with high degree of accuracy."

Congratulating the DRDO, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on X, "India has achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting flight trial of long range hypersonic missile... This is a historic moment and this significant achievement has put our country in the group of select nations having capabilities of such critical and advanced military technologies."

This missile has been indigenously developed by DRDO. Hypersonic weapons are manoeuvrable and can fly at speeds of at least Mach 5, five times the speed of sound.

- India successfully tested its first long-range hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The test, conducted from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast, confirmed the missile's accuracy and effectiveness.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the milestone, noting India's entry into a select group of nations with such advanced military technology. Hypersonic weapons are highly manoeuvrable and can fly at speeds of at least Mach 5.

The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 8

Why were the Kerala IAS officers suspended?

What do the conduct rules specify? Does it adequately cover the usage of social media? Do civil service rules need to be reviewed? What does 'unbecoming of an officer' mean?

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

Kerala has suspended two IAS officers, N. Prashant and K. Gopalakrishnan, citing violation of service rules.

What are the charges?

The charge against N. Prashant is that he had made 'derogatory statements' on social media against A. Jayathilak IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, that amounted to grave indiscipline and undermining the public image of the administrative machinery of the State. The government order stated that these remarks were 'unbecoming of an officer' borne in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Mr. Prashant alleged that Jayathilak had orchestrated baseless news reports against him. He refuted these allegations.

K. Gopalakrishnan has been suspended

for allegedly creating a religion-based WhatsApp group – 'Malhu Hindu Officers' – that sowed disunity and created communal formations within the IAS cadre. He had claimed that this group was created after his mobile phone was hacked. However, the suspension order stated that the police inquiry found no evidence of such hacking and that the officer had done a 'factory reset' of the phone before handing it over to police.

What do the rules state?

The All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 (AIS rules) governs the conduct of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service officers. The AIS rules provide a code of conduct for the officers. Some of the rules relevant for the current issue are briefly summarised here. Officers should maintain high standards of ethics, integrity, honesty, political neutrality, accountability and transparency. They

should uphold the supremacy of constitutional values. They can participate or contribute in public media in the bonafide discharge of their duties. They shall not in any communication over any public media adversely criticise the policies of the government. They shall not have recourse to any court or press for the vindication of official act, that has been subject matter of criticism, without the previous sanction of the government. It also contains an omnibus rule that the officers shall do nothing which is 'unbecoming of a member of the service.'

What are the issues?

There are certain overall issues that need to be addressed. First, the rules don't have explicit guidelines with respect to communication through social media. Second, the rules have been amended from time to time by including various new conduct guidelines that regulate both

the private and official life of officers. The term 'unbecoming of a member of the service' however continues as an omnibus rider that can be misused/misinterpreted. It must also be borne in mind that invariably in all cases, it is the senior officers and government who enforce these rules against junior officers and hence the latter need to be protected from any such misuse.

What can be reviewed?

Firstly, specific rules may be added with respect to the use of social media. This may include guidelines for the nature of official content that can be posted as well the right to defend against any defamatory campaign concerning official work. Secondly, an illustrative list may be provided for the term 'unbecoming of a member of the service,' based on past instances where action had been taken on this basis. Officers, especially youngsters, should remember that anonymity is an important trait of civil servants. In the present day and age, social media is a powerful medium for providing publicity to various governmental initiatives. It educates citizens when used judiciously. However, officers should exercise responsible anonymity while discharging their functions and disseminating information about the same.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

Kerala has suspended two IAS officers, N. Prashant and K. Gopalakrishnan, for violations of service rules.

- The **All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968** govern IAS officers' conduct, prohibiting criticism of government policies in public media and requiring high standards of integrity, accountability, and political neutrality.
- However, the rules lack clear guidelines on social media use, leaving room for misinterpretation of terms like "unbecoming of a member of the service."

The Hindu-Species(GSIII) -Page 12

Centre aims to make Andaman and Nicobar Islands a tuna export hub

A.M. Jigeeesh
NEW DELHI

As export of tuna fish from India increased by 31.83% in 2023-24, the Centre is exploring new areas to source one of the most commercially valuable fish. According to the Union Fisheries Department, a recent meeting of investors held on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was a step towards making the Union Territory a hub of tuna export.



cies, including skipjack, big-eye, and yellowfin tuna, are also landed. "Despite the high demand for these species, the region's tuna fishery is still underdeveloped and remains underutilised due to a combination of challenges, including lack of infrastructure, limited access to modern fishing technology,

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- Tuna are remarkable **migratory fish**, traveling vast distances such as from the Gulf of Mexico to Europe and back to breed.
- They are a vital food source and one of the most commercially valuable fish globally.

Indian Express-Miscellaneous-Page 12

WHY NEW ZEALAND LAWMAKERS STAGED 'HAKA' AGAINST DIVISIVE BILL

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

NEW ZEALAND'S parliament was briefly suspended on Thursday following a protest by lawmakers from the Indigenous Maori group, who staged a "haka" or ceremonial dance against a contentious Bill.

A 22-year-old Maori Party MP, Hana-rawhiti Maipi-Clarke, led the haka after being asked about her party's vote on the Treaty Principles Bill, which seeks to reinterpret a 184-year-old treaty between the British and the Maori. She also tore up a copy of the Bill in front of its author.



Maipi-Clarke performing the haka.
AP/YouTube screenshot

What is the haka?

The haka is of deep cultural significance to Maori identity, traditionally performed by warriors on the battlefield, to welcome another tribe, and on other occasions. According to New Zealand Tourism's website, haka "was a show of physical prowess but also an embodiment of cultural pride, strength, and unity." It is usually performed in a group and involves chanting, dramatic facial gestures, hand movements and stamping of feet.

Most recently, the haka made global headlines in 2019 when students from various schools — including non-Maori ones — paid tribute to their peers who died in the Christchurch shootings. The All Blacks, New Zealand's rugby team, has also performed the haka before each

ceded governance to the British Empire.

Efforts have been made over the years to enshrine the treaty's core values in the country's laws. According to a report in *The Guardian*, courts, tribunals and successive governments developed its principles over the years to improve the relations with the Maori and for clearer interpretation.

What is the Treaty Principles Bill?

Act leader David Seymour has argued there was a need to legally define the treaty's principles, as it does not list specifics and this has led to liberal interpretations. For example, the 1975 Treaty of Waitangi Act created a tribunal for recording the horrors experienced by the Indigenous communities under

- New Zealand's parliament was briefly suspended on November 14 following a protest by Indigenous Māori legislators, who staged a haka—a ceremonial dance—against the controversial Treaty Principles Bill
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- According to New Zealand Tourism's website, haka "was a show of physical prowess but also an embodiment of cultural pride, strength, and unity." It is usually performed in a group and involves chanting, dramatic facial gestures, hand movements and stamping the feet.

Indian Express-Environment-Page 12

Why CO2 has contributed the most to global warming

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

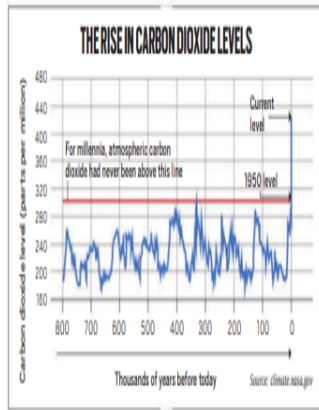
INDIA'S CARBON dioxide (CO2) emissions from burning fossil fuels are expected to increase by 4.6% in 2024—the highest among major economies, according to a new report by Global Carbon Project, an organisation that quantifies the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Globally, fossil-based CO2 emissions are set to touch a record high of 37.4 billion tonnes this year, a rise of 0.8% from 2023, the report said. At this rate, there is a 50% chance global warming will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius consistently in about six years, it said. CO2 is one of the most important GHGs and the primary driver of anthropogenic climate change.

What are greenhouse gases?

GHGs are the gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat. The Sun emits shortwave radiation or sunlight that passes through the atmosphere and is absorbed by the planet's surface to warm it. Some of this sunlight is reflected back by the surface as infrared radiation (heat) which has a longer wavelength. GHGs such as CO2 and methane (CH4), which cannot absorb shortwave radiation, trap infrared radiation. That is because unlike oxygen or nitrogen molecules, CO2 and CH4 are made up of three or more atoms, which gives them a larger variety of ways to stretch and bend. This means that they can absorb a wider range of wavelengths, including infrared radiation, Jason Smerdon, a climate scientist at Columbia University, told State of the Planet, a news site of the Columbia Climate School. Simply put, GHGs act like a blanket that envelopes Earth and insulates it from the cold of space. This process of maintaining a warmer temperature is called the greenhouse effect.

EXPLAINED CLIMATE



GHGs like CO2, CH4, and water vapour occur naturally and are a boon for the planet, as without the greenhouse effect, there would not be liquid water and any form of life. The issue, thus, is not the presence of GHGs but their concentration levels in the atmosphere. For about a thousand years before the Industrial Revolution, the GHG concentration remained relatively constant. Since then, there has been a constant rise in the amount of some of the GHGs, especially CO2, due to human activities. As a result, more heat

is getting trapped in the atmosphere.

Why has CO2 played a major role?

Studies have shown that CO2 has contributed the most to climate change.

In 2013, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—the United Nations body that advances scientific knowledge about climate change—compared the “radiative forcing” (RF) or heating effect of three different climate drivers: GHGs, aerosols, and land use change. It was found that between 1750 and 2011, CO2 had the highest positive RF, meaning it had the greatest warming effect on the planet. The analysis also showed that other GHGs such as CH4 or hydrofluorocarbons (an entirely human-made GHG), which are much more potent—while CH4 is around 80 times more powerful than CO2, HFCs can be thousands of times more powerful—had less heating effect than CO2.

There are two reasons for this. One, CO2 is much more abundant than CH4 and HFCs.

Since the onset of industrial times, human activities have raised atmospheric CO2 by 50%, according to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) report. Two, CO2 remains in the atmosphere longer than the other major GHGs emitted due to human activities. It takes about a decade for CH4 emissions to leave the atmosphere (it converts into CO2) and about a century for nitrous oxide (N2O). “After a pulse of CO2 is emitted into the atmosphere, 40% will remain in the atmosphere for 100 years and 20% will reside for 1000 years, while the final 10% will take 10,000 years to turn over,” a report by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), a US-based non-profit organisation, said.

Notably, water vapour is the most abundant GHG in the atmosphere. However, it has a short cycle (10 days on average) and does not build up in the atmosphere in the same way as CO2 does.

LONGER VERSION
indianexpress.com/explained

- India's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from fossil fuels are projected to increase by 4.6% in 2024, the highest among major economies.
- Globally, CO2 emissions will reach a record 37.4 billion tonnes in 2024, up 0.8% from 2023, with a 50% chance of exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming in six years.
- **Greenhouse Gases (GHGs):** Trap heat, maintaining a warmer Earth. CO2, methane (CH4), and water vapor are key GHGs. Human activities, like burning fossil fuels, have increased CO2 levels by 50% since the Industrial Revolution. **CO2's Impact:** Responsible for 70% of global warming. CO2 has the highest positive radiative forcing (RF), causing the greatest warming effect. More abundant and longer-lasting in the atmosphere compared to other GHGs like CH4 and HFCs.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Space(GSIII)

Elon Musk's SpaceX To Launch India's Heavy Communication Satellite GSAT-20 From Cape Canaveral, US



- SpaceX will launch India's heavy communication satellite, GSAT-20, from Cape Canaveral on November 19. The 4,700 kg satellite, too heavy for India's LVM-3 rocket, will be launched by SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket. GSAT-20, expected to operate for 14 years, will provide vital internet connectivity services across India, especially in remote areas.
- India previously relied on Arianespace for such heavy launches, but SpaceX was chosen due to Arianespace's lack of operational rockets. The Falcon-9 rocket can launch payloads up to 8,300 kg to geostationary transfer orbit. Radhakrishnan Durairaj of New Space India Ltd highlighted the good deal ISRO secured for this launch.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GSII)

India Sends First Consignment Of Food Grains, Others To Suriname For Social Welfare Programme



- India has sent the first consignment of about 425 metric ton of food grains and other edible items to Suriname for its Social Welfare Programme.
- India enjoys close, warm and friendly relations with Suriname, reinforced by cultural and people-to-people contacts bridged by the Indian Diaspora's arrival dating back to one and a half-century. Several high-level visits have been exchanged since establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Suriname in 1976 with Indian Embassy opened in Paramaribo in 1977 and Surinamese Embassy in New Delhi in 2000.