

DAILY PT POINTERS

19 November, 2024



The Hindu-Health(GSII)-Page 6

CDC reports surge in Chikungunya cases among US travellers returning from Telangana

Health department reported 178 chikungunya cases as of August 31, surpassing figures from previous years; no updated data, however, has been released in the past three months, leaving the current situation unclear

Updated - November 18, 2024 10:04 pm IST - HYDERABAD

SIDHARTH KUMAR SINGH



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A lowdown on notice

The advisory, issued on November 8, reflects growing concerns over the spread of vector-borne diseases in the region

- Advisory recommends enhanced precautions
- Expectant mothers advised against travel to TG
- Second CDC travel alert for India this year
- First issued in August after Zika virus outbreak



- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a 'Level 2' travel advisory for Telangana due to a higher-than-expected number of chikungunya cases among U.S. travelers. The advisory, released on November 8, urges enhanced precautions². This follows a similar alert in August for a Zika virus outbreak in Maharashtra. The CDC's travel advisory system has four levels, with Level 2 calling for enhanced precautions.
- Chikungunya is a disease transmitted to humans by mosquitoes in Africa, Asia, and the Americas; sporadic outbreaks have been reported in other regions.
- Dengue and Zika have similar symptoms to chikungunya, making chikungunya easy to misdiagnose.
- Chikungunya causes fever and severe joint pain, which is often debilitating and varies in duration; other symptoms include joint swelling, muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash.

CJI recuses himself from hearing case on felling of trees in Delhi's Ridge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Monday recused himself from hearing a case involving illegal felling of trees in Delhi's protected Ridge area, in which Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in his personal capacity on his role in the felling of trees. The L-G is ex officio Chairperson of Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

The CJI, after a brief interaction with his Associate Judge on the Bench Justice Sanjay Kumar, explained that when he was the Chairperson of National Level

situation and would allocate a Bench accordingly. The case was listed for hearing in the week commencing on December 2.

A crucial question surrounding the L-G is whether he knew that trees in the Ridge area could not be felled without prior permission from the top court.

There is also the question of when exactly he had come to know that the trees were felled illegally in the area. On October 24, a three-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had orally observed that this particular detail in Mr. Saxena's personal affidavit did not match with official records.

- Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Monday recused himself from hearing a case involving illegal felling of trees in Delhi's protected Ridge area, in which Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in his personal capacity on his role in the felling of trees. **Principles and Reasons for Recusal:**
- Conflict of Interest: Judges may recuse themselves if there's a conflict of interest (e.g., financial interest, personal relationships).
- A judge must avoid situations where their impartiality might be questioned (e.g., past judgments, associations with parties involved).
- Nemo judex in sua causa: No one should be a judge in their own case.
- Justice Must Be Seen to Be Done: Principle established in Rex v. Sussex Justices (1924), ensuring justice is not only done but appears to be done.

The Hindu-IR(GSII)-Page 14

'Global South hit by food, fuel crises due to conflicts'

In address on first day of G-20 Summit, Modi compliments Brazilian presidency of the grouping for taking forward 'decisions' taken at New Delhi summit; also highlights Centre's various schemes

Press Trust of India
RIO DE JANEIRO

The countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by food, fuel and fertilizer crises caused by global conflicts and the G-20 must give primacy to their concerns and priorities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

In an address on the first day of the G-20 summit, Mr. Modi complimented the Brazilian presidency of the grouping for taking forward the "people-centric decisions" taken at the bloc's summit in New Delhi last year. The Indian G-20 presidency's call for "One earth, one family, one future" continued to resonate at the Rio conversations, he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden, Mr. Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer



Meet and greet: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Joe Biden at the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on Monday. (PTI)

South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crises caused by global conflicts," he said. "So our discussions can only be successful when we keep in mind the challenges and priorities of the Global South."

The Prime Minister made the remarks at the G-20 session on "Social inclusion and the fight against hunger and

at least 80 nations. In a post on X, Mr. Modi called the initiative "commendable" saying it marks a significant stride towards ensuring food security and uplifting vulnerable communities worldwide.

In his remarks at the session, the Prime Minister said India believed in the approaches of "Back to basics" and "March to future" and that is why it is

ger and poverty, Mr. Modi said India had pulled 250 million people out of poverty in the last 10 years and was distributing free food grains to 800 million people in the country. He also highlighted the steps taken by India to strengthen food security in Africa and elsewhere.

"Over 800 million people are being given food grains free of cost; 550 million people are benefiting from the world's biggest health insurance scheme," he said. "Now, 60 million senior citizens, over the age of 70, will also be able to benefit from free health insurance," he said.

"Over 300 million women micro-entrepreneurs have been linked to banks and given access to credit," Mr. Modi added. "Under the world's largest crop insurance scheme, over 40 million farmers have received benefits worth 20 billion U.S. dollars," he added.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the need for the G-20 to prioritize the concerns of the Global South, which are most affected by food, fuel, and fertilizer crises due to global conflicts. Speaking at the G-20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, he praised the Brazilian presidency for continuing the "people-centric decisions" from the previous summit in New Delhi. Key Points: Global South Impact: Highlighted the adverse effects of global conflicts on food, fuel, and fertilizer supplies.
- Global Alliance: Launched to combat poverty and hunger, supported by at least 80 nations.

The Hindu-Space(GSIII) -Page 14



Blazing a trail: The Falcon-9 rocket with the GSAT-N2 payload lifts off from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. AP

SpaceX's Falcon-9 deploys Indian satellite into orbit

Hemanth G.S.
BENGALURU

India's GSAT-N2 (GSAT-20) communication satellite was successfully launched by SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket in the early hours of Tuesday.

After lifting off at 12.01 a.m. (Indian Standard Time) from the Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, Falcon-9 put the GSAT-N2 into a geosynchronous transfer orbit.

GSAT-N2 is a Ka-band

organisation. According to the ISRO, the satellite is set to enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region.

"This satellite, featuring multiple spot beams and wideband Ka x Ka transponders, aims to support a large subscriber base with small user terminals, significantly boosting system throughput through its multi-beam architecture which allows frequency reuse," the ISRO said.

The GSAT-N2 satellite, with a lift-off mass of 4,700

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- GSAT-N2 is a Ka-band high throughput communication satellite of NewSpace India Ltd., which is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation. According to the ISRO, the satellite is set to enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region.
- "This satellite, featuring multiple spot beams and wideband Ka x Ka transponders, aims to support a large subscriber base with small user terminals, significantly boosting system throughput through its multi-beam architecture which allows frequency reuse," the ISRO said. The GSAT-N2 satellite, with a lift-off mass of 4,700 kg, has a mission life of 14 years.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Species

African penguins, listed 'endangered', seek peace, food



- In October 2024, the African penguin was classified as critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, marking a significant concern for Africa's only penguin species.
- The decline of African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*), which are native to Namibia and South Africa, has been ongoing since the 1800s due to activities like egg harvesting, guano collection, and habitat destruction. While such practices have ceased, the penguins' main threat since the early 2000s has been a lack of prey, exacerbated by climate change, industrial fishing, and a 70% population decline from 2000 to 2024.

Indian Express-Environment-Page 11

GRAP IV

Strictest stage of emergency measures to combat air pollution in the National Capital Region

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

THE SUPREME Court questioned the Delhi government on Monday over the "delay" in implementing stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). With smog and high levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR on Sunday, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had issued directions for implementing stage IV from Monday morning onwards.

However, the court said the CAQM sub-committee tasked with operationalising the GRAP was supposed "to take preemptive steps", before pollution levels approach the specific threshold. The Air Quality Index (AQI) was 441 at 4 pm on Sunday, and reached the 450 threshold at which GRAP IV is supposed to be implemented later in the evening. The apex court has said that stage IV measures should continue even if the AQI drops below 450 in Delhi-NCR.

What is GRAP?

GRAP is a set of emergency measures that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once it reaches a certain threshold in Delhi-NCR. Approved by the Supreme Court in 2016, and notified in 2017, the plan was formulated after sev-

stage II is when it's in the 'very poor' category (301-400), stage III is when the AQI is the 'severe' category (401-450) and finally stage IV is when it rises to the 'severe +' category (more than 450).

Why was GRAP IV imposed?

The sub-committee's decision was based on a review of the air quality in Delhi-NCR, and forecasts for meteorological conditions. An official notification said air quality will likely remain in this adverse range in the next few days owing to heavy fog, variable winds, and highly unfavourable meteorological and climatic conditions.

Stage I, stage II and stage III restrictions were imposed on October 14, October 21 and November 14, respectively.

And what does GRAP IV say?

Some key directions include:

- Ban on the entry of truck traffic into Delhi (except for trucks carrying essential commodities/providing essential services). All LNG/CNG/Electric/Bharat Stage-VI diesel trucks are, however, permitted to enter.
- Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) registered outside Delhi, other than EVs/CNG/BS-VI diesel, cannot enter Delhi, except those carrying essential com-

The Supreme Court questioned the Delhi government on November 18 about the delay in implementing Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) due to high pollution levels. Despite the Air Quality Index (AQI) hitting 441 on Sunday, Stage IV should have been implemented preemptively.

GRAP Overview: GRAP is a set of emergency measures activated at various air quality thresholds in Delhi-NCR. Stage I (AQI 201-300), Stage II (AQI 301-400), Stage III (AQI 401-450), and Stage IV (AQI >450).

Current Implementation:

Reason: Delhi's AQI breached the severe threshold, requiring immediate action.

Measures under Stage IV:

Ban on truck traffic into Delhi (except essential services).
Ban on non-CNG/BS-VI diesel Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and diesel-operated Medium/Heavy Goods Vehicles (MGVs/HGVs).

Ban on construction and demolition activities for public projects.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Environment



- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, announced the notification of the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh as India's 56th tiger reserve. The reserve spans 2,829 sq. km and includes the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary.

Key Details:

Location: Spread across Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur districts.

Core Habitat: 2,049.2 sq. km.

Buffer Zone: 780.15 sq. km.

Third Largest: After Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh and Manas in Assam.