

DAILY PT POINTERS

22 November, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express-Defence(GSIII)

Russia fired ICBM after being hit with US missiles: Kyiv

REUTERS
KYIV, NOVEMBER 21

UKRAINE SAID Russia fired what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile at the city of Dnipro on Thursday, in what would be the first use in war of a weapon designed to deliver long-distance nuclear strikes.

Western officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, later told Reuters their initial analysis showed it was not an intercontinental ballistic missile, though they left open the possibility that conclusion could change.

The latest strike highlighted rapidly rising tensions in the 33-month-old war.

Ukraine fired US and British missiles at targets inside Russia this week despite warnings by Moscow that it would see such action as a major escalation.

Security experts said that if Thursday's strike involved an in-

US REOPENS KYIV EMBASSY

Kyiv: The United States said it had reopened its embassy in Kyiv late on Wednesday after it had shut for the day due to what it called the threat of a significant air attack, a day after Ukraine used American missiles to hit a target inside Russia.

(of an) intercontinental ballistic (missile). An expert (investigation) is currently underway," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video statement.

Ukraine's foreign ministry urged the international community to react swiftly. The Ukrainian air force said the missile was fired from the Russian region of Astrakhan, over 700 km from Dnipro in central-eastern Ukraine.

- Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) during an attack on Ukraine, marking the first use of such a powerful, nuclear-capable weapon in the ongoing conflict, — Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) are strategic weapons designed to deliver nuclear warheads. They can also have conventional warheads.
- They are an important part of Russia's nuclear deterrent. — The missiles have a range of thousands of kilometres. — ICBMs reportedly have a range between 6,000 to 9,300 miles, making a target vulnerable. — The use would serve as a reminder of Russia's nuclear capability and send a powerful message to the US and other NATO allies..

Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page 7

Why Andhra has scrapped 2-child rule for contesting local body polls

NIKHILAHENRY

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

SINCE RETURNING to power, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has expressed concern about the ageing population in the state and said his government was contemplating moves to incentivise families to have more children. On Monday, the Naidu government took a step in that direction by doing away with a three-decade-old law, the AP Panchayat Raj and AP Municipal Acts, that barred people with more than two children from contesting local body polls. Back in 1994, it was the Naidu gov-

and Municipal Administration Department Acts to enforce the "two-children policy".

Andhra Pradesh is not the first state to roll back the two-child policy. In 2005, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh rescinded the policy.

Why was the policy introduced?

It came into being after it was found that population control measures between the censuses of 1981 and 1991 were not yielding the expected results.

"India, at the time, was trying to control its population growth and the intra-census data re-

mographer and associate professor at the International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai. The "unexpected" results led the National Development Council to set up a committee chaired by then Kerala Chief Minister K Karunakaran. The panel recommended that people with more than two children should not be

allowed to hold government posts, from the panchayat level to Parliament. The recommendations were subsequently adopted by various states.

Rajasthan became the first state to adopt the "two-child policy" at the panchayat level in 1992,



Odisha introduced the policy for local bodies in 1993 and extended it to the block panchayat level in 1994. While Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh introduced the policy in 2000, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, and Assam enforced it in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2017, respectively. The policy came

into force in Uttarakhnad in 2019 while UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu adopted the policy in 2020.

Of the 13 states and UTs that adopted the policy, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and MP rolled it back in 2005.

sex ratio at birth (SRB), which declined to 880:1000 between 2003 and 2005," Goli said. Another reason for rolling back the "two-child policy" was the National Population Policy that came into force in 2000.

"National Population Policy in 2000 advocated target free approach and protection of reproductive rights," Goli said.

Why did Andhra roll back policy?

Claiming that the ageing population could adversely affect the state, Naidu recently suggested that couples must be encouraged to have more children. Elaborating, Andhra Information and Public

that the state's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was abysmally low. "While the national TFR is 2.11, it is only 1.5 in the state. This could affect the productivity of the state in the long run," he said.

With the Centre likely to take up the delimitation exercise in 2026, which is population-based, Naidu was not the only politician to express concerns about an ageing population and declining fertility rates.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao told The Indian Express in an interview that he had urged the Centre "not to punish" southern states for successfully implementing family planning.

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has expressed concern about the state's ageing population and low fertility rate. To address this, the Naidu government recently repealed the three-decade-old law, the AP Panchayat Raj and Municipal Acts, which had barred individuals with more than two children from contesting local body elections. The law, introduced in 1994, was part of a broader national effort to control population growth, following disappointing results from population control measures between the 1981 and 1991 censuses.
- Several states, including Rajasthan, Haryana, Odisha, and others, adopted the two-child policy, but some, such as Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, rescinded it in 2005 due to concerns about worsening sex ratios and the changing national approach to population control. The policy's rollback was also influenced by the introduction of the National Population Policy in 2000, which emphasized reproductive rights and moved away from target-driven population control.

Indian Express-Economy(GSIII)-Page 11

What is Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, launched at Brazil G20?

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

other things, end poverty and hunger, and achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030.

But the Covid-19 pandemic led to significant reversals in the progress made towards these ends, as extreme poverty rose and nutrition standards fell, especially in the Global South. The uneven economic recovery in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Sixteen years later, I am saddened to see that the

same number as in 2015". It is in this context that Brazil chose to launch the Alliance during its G20 presidency. Speaking during the launch, Brazil President Lula da Silva said: "I attended the first G20 Leaders' Meeting in Washington in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Sixteen years later, I am saddened to see that the

world is even worse off. We have the highest number of armed conflicts since World War II, and the highest number of forced displacements ever recorded. Extreme weather events are having devastating effects on every corner of the planet. Social, racial, and gender inequalities are deepening in the wake of a pandemic that has claimed more

than 15 million lives. The ultimate symbol of our collective tragedy is hunger and poverty. Of particular importance are the six 'Sprints 2030' high-impact areas which will see target-oriented initiatives catering to the most vulnerable. These include: school meals; cash transfers to smallholder and family farming support programs; socio-economic inclusion programs; integrated maternal and early childhood in-

How Alliance will function

According to Lula, 81 countries (including India), 26 international organisations, 9 financial institutions, and 31 philanthropic foundations and non-governmental organ-

isations can avail support for. Of particular importance are the six 'Sprints 2030' high-impact areas which will see target-oriented initiatives catering to the most vulnerable. These include: school meals; cash transfers to smallholder and family farming support programs; socio-economic inclusion programs; integrated maternal and early childhood in-

- The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty was officially launched at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This initiative aims to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹. The Alliance brings together 148 members, including countries, international organizations, financial institutions, and NGOs.

Key takeaways:

Membership: Open to all countries, not just G20 members.

Strategic Commitments: Programs to reach 500 million people with income distribution, expand school meals to 150 million children, and mobilize billions for anti-poverty programs.

Structure: Independent platform with headquarters at FAO, regular summits, and a High-Level Champions Council

The Hindu-Environment(GSIII) -Page 1

Consensus on new climate finance goal remains elusive

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A day before this round of UN climate talks are scheduled to end in Baku, developed and developing nations are far from agreeing on a number – still denoted as ‘x’ in the draft text – that will define the world’s new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance.

The NCQG refers to money that will be given by developed countries to developing nations to help them transition away from fossil fuels and curb greenhouse gas emissions. Deve-

have transferred \$115 billion in 2021-22 – though developing nations say the target has not been met.

As per the Paris Agreement, a new target above \$100 billion must be agreed upon by 2025.

A crucial point that is to be resolved is making a clear distinction between the NCQG and climate finance in general. Climate finance technically includes every dollar that is even remotely connected to some aspect of ‘climate’ and therefore includes profit-making business investments as well.

By this metric, there is

reaching an annual average of \$1.3 trillion.

Fissures on finance

According to a contentious paragraph in the current version of the agreement text made public on Thursday morning, a block of developing countries has submitted that the NCQG must be ‘x’ trillion dollars annually, from 2025 till 2035, to be made available to all developing countries as grants or low-cost loans.

This money must be provided to help countries meet their nationally determined contributions and buffer against existing

- As the latest round of UN climate talks in Baku nears its end, developed and developing nations remain far from agreeing on a key figure—denoted as ‘x’ in the draft text—that will define the world’s new collective quantified goal (NCQG) for climate finance. The NCQG refers to the financial support that developed countries will provide to help developing nations transition away from fossil fuels and address climate change. Developing countries argue that this transition will cost trillions of dollars, while developed nations claim they transferred \$115 billion in climate finance in 2021-2022, though developing countries argue the target has not been met.
- Under the Paris Agreement, a new climate finance target, exceeding \$100 billion, must be set by 2025.

The Hindu-History(GSI) -Page 6

Rock-cut footprints, human figure dating back to Megalithic period unearthed at Kerala's Kanhirapoil

C.P. Sajit
KASARAGOD

A remarkable archaeological discovery has come to light at Kanhirapoil in Madikkai grama panchayat of Kerala where 24 pairs of prehistoric footprints and a human figure have been found carved into rock on private property. Experts believe these carvings date



Mr. Kumar said that the footprints represent souls of dead people and have been carved out to honour them. All the footprints are pointing towards the west. However, local people believe these footmarks to be that of a goddess.

He further said these carvings bear similarities to prehistoric rock art found in Avalakki Pera in

tapara, bull figures at Ettukudukka in Kannur, and the celebrated carvings at Edakkal Caves in Wayanad.

He said the 2,000-year-old rock art sheds light on the lives and artistic expressions of early inhabitants of Madikkai grama panchayat and Kerala as a whole.

These carvings and artefacts found here have long been attributed to the Me-

- A remarkable archaeological discovery has come to light at Kanhirapoil in Madikkai grama panchayat of Kerala where 24 pairs of prehistoric footprints and a human figure have been found carved into rock on private property. Experts believe these carvings date back to the Megalithic period, providing a fascinating glimpse into ancient culture.
- The carvings, made with iron tools, include footprints varying in size from six to 10 inches, suggesting representations of both children and adults. At the end of the footprints, a human figure has been intricately etched, accompanied by four circular pits around it.
- He said the 2,000-year-old rock art sheds light on the lives and artistic expressions of early inhabitants of Madikkai grama panchayat and Kerala as a whole.

The Hindu- Environment(GSIII)-Page 6

Curbs imposed on annual temple jathra in Bandipur Tiger Reserve

THE HINDU BUREAU
MYSURU

The Karnataka Forest Department has imposed restrictions on the annual jathra of Beladakuppe Sri Mahadeshwaraswamy Temple which is in the core area of Bandipur Tiger Reserve. This year's event will take place from November 23 to 25.

S. Prabhakaran, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said, "the ban on entry of private vehicles, which came into force a few years ago, will continue".

Meanwhile, temple trustees said they expected nearly one lakh devotees to take part in the rituals.

The situation had come to such a pass in recent years that the core critical area of the tiger reserve used to resemble the site of a rural mela as temporary kiosks and stalls dealing with eatables, toys, etc., stages with colourful lights and loudspeakers used to be installed.

- The Karnataka Forest Department has imposed restrictions on the annual jathra of Beladakuppe Sri Mahadeshwaraswamy Temple which is in the core area of Bandipur Tiger Reserve.
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve formerly known as the Bandipur National Park since 1970's came into being during the year 2007. The name is derived from a village called Bandipur where the administrative unit of the Tiger Reserve is located.
- **Location**
The Tiger Reserve is situated in the contiguous landscape spread in the two revenue districts of Southern Karnataka namely the Mysore (Nanjangud & H.D. Kote Taluks) and Chamarajanagar (Gundlupet Taluk).

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB- Science and Tech(GSIII)



The PACE scheme provides catalytic support to industries and institutions for development and demonstration of innovative product and process technologies, traversing the journey from proof of concept or laboratory stage to pilot stage, so that they can be launched for commercialization.

Scope

- The scheme supports ingenious work and assists in development of new technologies or creative/innovative application of the existing technologies to solve unmet needs of industry. The scheme also strengthens the interface between industry, R&D establishments and academic institutions by supporting collaborative proposals. The scheme supports industry to develop and demonstrate the technology (either acquired technology or its own indigenous in-house technology) alone or in collaboration with R&D organizations/ academic institutions/ universities.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air- Miscellaneous

82 Young Artists To Be Conferred With Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar



- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will confer the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2022 and 2023 at a function in New Delhi tomorrow. A total of 82 young artists will be honoured with the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar. Sangeet Natak Akademi instituted the award in the name of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan for young performing arts practitioners up to the age of 40 years in 2006.
- The aim of this award is to encourage and motivate young artists in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk and tribal art forms, and other allied performing art forms of the country. The award is given annually to outstanding young artists in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk and tribal arts, and puppetry in a special ceremony held in Delhi and also outside Delhi. The Yuva Puraskar carries a cash award of 25 thousand rupees, a plaque, and an angavastram

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air- GS2(Governance)

K Sanjay Murthy Sworn In As CAG Of India



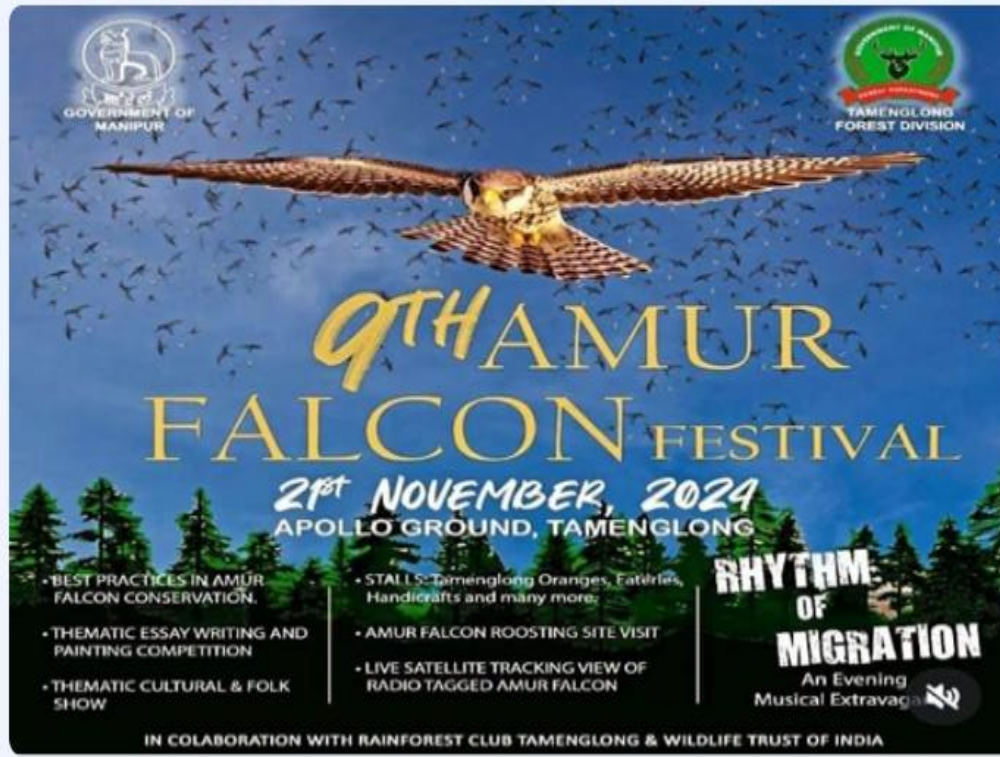
K Sanjay Murthy has taken oath as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in New Delhi

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is an independent authority established by the Constitution of India to audit the receipts and expenditures of the Central Government, State Governments, and other bodies that receive funding from the Government.
- Since it is established directly under the provisions of the Constitution, it is a Constitutional Body.
- The CAG is an All-India body in the sense that it controls the entire financial system of the country at both the Central and the State levels.
- The CAG heads the Indian Audit & Accounts Department and acts as the Guardian of the Public Purse. Article 148 to Article 151 of the Constitution of India deal with the provisions related to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air- GS3(Environment)

9th Amur Falcon Festival Celebrated With Great Fervour In Manipur



- They are **small raptors** of the **falcon family** with the scientific name **Falco amurensis**.
- They are the **world's longest travelling raptors** and start their travelling routine with the onset of winters, the longest amongst all avian species.
- They are named after the **Amur River** that forms the border between Russia and China.
- They breed in **southeastern Siberia and northern China**, and **migrate** across **India** and then over **the Indian Ocean** to **southern Africa** before returning to Mongolia and Siberia.
- **Doyang Lake in Nagaland** is famous as a **stopover for the Amur falcons** during their annual migration from their breeding grounds to warmer South Africa. Thus, **Nagaland** is also known as the **“Falcon Capital of the World,”**.

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concerned

Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Protected

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Protected

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air- GS3(Environment)

Armenia Becomes 104th Full Member Of International Solar Alliance



- Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a global initiative launched in 2015 by India and France at the COP21 summit in Paris to promote solar energy as a sustainable solution for energy access and climate change. Headquartered in India, the ISA is the first international organization established in the country, reflecting India's commitment to multilateralism and a carbon-neutral future.
- , the ISA plays a key role in advancing global solar cooperation, enhancing energy security, and supporting the transition to cleaner energy systems.