

DAILY PT POINTERS

29th November, 2024



The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page1

Ready in principle to execute Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme, says Atishi

Delhi Chief Minister says exploring the possibility of running it alongside their free treatment facility extended to city residents; Bidhuri promises scheme roll-out by BJP if it wins the Assembly election; Delhi High Court seeks response from AAP govt. over programme's non-implementation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Thursday said her government is "in-principle" ready for the implementation of the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme – Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) – in the Capital.

However, the CM said they are exploring the possibility of running it concurrently with the free treatment facility being provided by them at the Delhi government hospitals as the ₹5-lakh annual health cover being offered under the plan leaves a large number of needy pa-



Chief Minister Atishi addressing reporters during a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

anyone to not get free treatment. So, we have given directions to the Health Department to come up with a solution for that," the Chief Minister told reporters.

High Court expressed shock at the Delhi government for not accepting healthcare funds from the Centre under the programme despite "lacking money" for the city's

reservation while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the city's seven BJP Lok Sabha MPs, who sought the implementation of the plan in the Capital while asserting that its non-execution is forcing the poor to borrow or sell their assets to deal with medical emergencies.

Court hearing on Dec. 11
The High Court on Thursday sought a response from the Delhi government over the non-implementation of the scheme, which offers an annual health coverage of ₹5 lakh per family. A beneficiary can avail of medical treatment at any empanelled hospital in the country under the

December 11. Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party has so far maintained that there is no need to implement the Central plan in the Capital as they are already providing free treatment without any cap on expenditure.

"If you have a fridge, two-wheeler, or a pucca house, then you cannot avail of insurance benefit under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Also, there is a cap of ₹5 lakh per family per year. So, if one member of a family falls ill and needs ₹10 lakh for treatment, then he will have to pay ₹5 lakh from his own pocket," Ms. Atishi said.

BJP signature campaign

Singh Bidhuri announced a signature campaign from December 1 to 7 to push for the implementation of the scheme in Delhi.

He said the BJP will implement the programme in the Capital if it comes to power in the Delhi Assembly poll due in February next year.

Demanding the implementation of the Central plan, North West Delhi MP Yogender Chandoliya alleged that the hospitals run by the Delhi government lack proper diagnostic facilities. "In my constituency, the four hospitals being run by the Delhi government neither have enough doctors nor specialised facilities while cases of coun-

- Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Thursday said her government is "in-principle" ready for the implementation of the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme — Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) — in the Capital.
- The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), launched on September 23, 2018, is a key initiative for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India. It is part of the broader Ayushman Bharat program, introduced under the National Health Policy 2017.
- The scheme targets over 12 crore families, covering around 55 crore individuals, with a focus on the poorest 40% of the population as identified by the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011. PM-JAY provides health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization, making it the world's largest health assurance scheme. The scheme aims to provide healthcare to the most vulnerable sections of society.

The Hindu-Defense(GSIII) –Page16



India tests ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km

India has tested a nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km from a nuclear-powered submarine in the Bay of Bengal, in a major boost to its nuclear deterrence and strategic capabilities, sources said on Thursday. With this, India became part of a small group of nations having the capability to fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea. The K4 missile was tested from *INS Arighaat* off the coast of Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, the sources said. It was the first test of the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine, the sources said. PTI

- India successfully tested the nuclear-capable K4 ballistic missile, with a range of around 3,500 km, from the nuclear-powered submarine *INS Arighaat* in the Bay of Bengal.
- This marks a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrence and strategic capabilities, making it one of the few nations capable of launching nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea. The test, conducted off the coast of Visakhapatnam, was the first submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) test from a submarine

The Hindu-Economy

Union govt. clears scheme for tourism sites in 23 States

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Centre has approved interest-free loans worth ₹3,295 crore to States for the development of tourism sites and infrastructure.

As part this initiative, 40 new projects have been

identified across 23 States, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Thursday.

Through this initiative, the Union Tourism Ministry has also encouraged States to develop lesser-known tourist destinations, including Bateshwar in Uttar Pradesh, Ponda in

Goa, Gandikota in Andhra Pradesh and Porbandar in Gujarat.

The loans were cleared by the Union Finance Ministry earlier this week. As per the directives of the Department of Expenditure, the Ministry of Tourism has issued operational guidelines for Special

Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) for development of iconic tourist centres.

'Interest free loans'

The aim of this scheme is to infuse long-term interest free loans for a period of 50 years to States for com-

prehensive developing iconic tourist centres in the country as well as branding and marketing them at a global scale.

"By infusing capital investment in the form of projects, the scheme further envisages the growth of the local economy and the creation of employment opportunities through sus-

tainable tourism projects," Mr. Shekhawat said at an interaction.

The projects were finalised after extensive regional consultations with State governments.

The States have been given a timeline of two years for completing the projects.

- The Centre has approved interest-free loans worth ₹3,295 crore to develop tourism sites and infrastructure across 23 states.
- Forty new projects have been identified, including lesser-known destinations like Bateshwar (Uttar Pradesh), Ponda (Goa), Gandikota (Andhra Pradesh), and Porbandar (Gujarat). The loans are interest-free for 50 years, aimed at developing iconic tourist centres, branding, and marketing them globally. This initiative aims to boost the local economy and create employment through sustainable tourism projects. States have two years to complete these projects.

Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page 8

Collegium recommends Justice Manmohan for SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THE SUPREME Court Collegium Thursday recommended the elevation of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan as a judge of the apex court.

The Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned strength of 34, is currently working with 32 judges. The five-judge Collegium is headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and comprises Justices B R Gavai, Surya Kant, Hrishikesh Roy and A S Oka.

The official resolution said, "The Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on 28th November 2024 deliberated on and discussed the names of Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges of the High Courts eligible for appointment to the Supreme Court. Justice Manmohan was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 13th March 2008 and has been functioning as the Chief Justice of that High Court since 29th September 2024. Justice Manmohan stands at Sl.No.2 in the combined all-India seniority of High Court Judges and he is



Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan. File

the senior-most Judge in the High Court of Delhi. While recommending his name, the Collegium has taken into consideration the fact that, at present,

the Bench of Supreme Court is represented by only one Judge from the High Court of Delhi. The Supreme Court Collegium has, therefore, unanimously recommended that Justice Manmohan be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India."

Justice Manmohan completed his schooling from Modern School, Barakhamba Road, and obtained a BA (Hons) in History from Hindu College. He got his LLB in 1987 from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, and enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi the same year.

He practiced primarily in the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court in civil, criminal, constitutional, taxation, arbitration, trademark, and service matters. He also served as a senior panel advocate for the Government of India in the High Court and the Supreme Court.

Justice Manmohan was designated as senior advocate by the High Court of Delhi on January 18, 2003.

He was appointed additional judge of the High Court of Delhi on March 13, 2008, and as permanent judge on December 17, 2009.

- The collegium system emerged from years of friction between the judiciary and the executive, involving court-packing, mass transfer of judges, and supersessions. Three Judges Cases:
First Judges Case: Consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) should be "full and effective."
Second Judges Case: Introduced the collegium system in 1993; CJI must consult the two senior-most judges for judicial appointments.
Third Judges Case: Expanded the collegium to include the CJI and four senior-most judges.
The collegium of the CJI and four senior-most Supreme Court judges recommends appointments to the apex court and High Courts.

Indian Express-Environment(GSIII)-Page 10

Over 1.5 million die around the world each year from wild/bush fire pollution, says Lancet study

'About 25.5 lakh deaths in India between 2000 and 2019 could be attributed to this'; China tops list

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, NOVEMBER 28

POLLUTION CAUSED by landscape fires, including incidents like agricultural burning in northern India during winters, could have claimed more than 1.2 lakh deaths in India every year on an average in the 20-year period between 2000 and 2019, a new study published in Lancet magazine said.

Agricultural burning is just one

type of landscape fires contributing to air pollution. The study covers all kinds of fires in any natural or cultural landscapes like fires in forests, grasslands, vegetated areas or wildfires.

In this 20-year period, about 25.54 lakh deaths in India could be attributed to respiratory or cardiovascular diseases caused by air pollution induced by these kinds of fires, the study said. China had the largest number of such casualties during this period, followed by the Democratic Republic of

Congo, India, Indonesia and Nigeria. Globally, more than 1.53 million deaths could be attributable to such landscape fire incidents, the study said.

The study, led by Yuming Guo, head of Climate, Air Quality Research (CARE) unit, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, Melbourne, shows for the first time the actual health risks from wild/bush fires, particularly from the PM2.5 matter released during the process.

"The flames and heat from landscape fires can kill people near the fire areas, with 221 direct deaths reported globally in 2018. However, the health risks from landscape fires are much greater, as landscape fire-sourced (LFS) air pollution (particularly fine particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 µm or less [PM2.5] and ozone) often travels hundreds and even thousands of kilometres away and affects much larger populations than the flames and heat do,"

Guo said in the study. Prakash Doraiswamy, Director, Air Quality, at World Resources Institute, India, said that large scale burning events such as the forest fires or agricultural fires contribute to the larger air quality problem at both local and regional scales. "Such fire events generate significant emissions of smoke that contain black carbon and other fine particles that impact health, air quality and climate," Doraiswamy said.

- A study led by Yuming Guo from Monash University highlights the severe health risks from wildfires, particularly due to PM2.5 emissions. Key points include: Globally, over 1.53 million deaths could be attributed to landscape fire incidents.
- In 2018, there were 221 direct deaths from landscape fires, but pollution from these fires causes far more health issues.
- At least 90% of PM2.5 emissions from landscape fires are due to wildfires, and this is likely to increase with climate change.
- The study reports around 450,000 annual deaths from cardiovascular disease and 220,000 from respiratory disease due to fire pollution. It emphasizes geographic and socio-economic differences in mortality and an increasing trend of cardiovascular deaths linked to fire pollution.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Environment(GS3)

Gujarat Leads In Rooftop Solar System Installations Under PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana: Shripad Naik



- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana is a Central government initiative aimed at providing free electricity to one crore households in India that install rooftop solar systems.
- Eligible households will receive 300 units of free electricity every month. Approved by the Union Cabinet in February with an outlay of Rs. 75,021 crore, the scheme offers a subsidy on solar units: 60% for systems up to 2 kW and 40% for systems between 2 to 3 kW, capped at 3 kW. The subsidy can amount to Rs. 30,000 for 1 kW systems, Rs. 60,000 for 2 kW, and Rs. 78,000 for 3 kW systems.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GS2)

India And Russia Agree To Increase Joint Military Exercises



The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Military Cooperation under the India – Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation, concluded successfully in Moscow Russia.

Defence Ministry said, the meeting marked a significant milestone in advancing the long-standing Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

The Working Group emphasised the importance of continued knowledge-sharing and collaboration in areas of strategic interest. It also agreed upon expanding joint exercises to further solidifying the operational synergy between the two forces.

The Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership was signed in 2000, which was elevated to the level of Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership in 2010.

The Working Group, a crucial forum for India-Russia defence cooperation, provides a platform to assess existing military engagements and identified new areas for collaboration to address evolving security challenges.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Economy(GSIII)

Masato Kanda Elected As ADB President



- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors has unanimously elected Masato Kanda as its 11th President. Kanda, currently serving as Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, will assume office in February next year, succeeding Masatsugu Asakawa.
- He will complete the remaining term of Asakawa, which ends in November 2026. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB has grown from 31 members to 68, working to promote social and economic development in Asia through its network of 31 field offices.