



# DAILY PT POINTERS

5 November, 2024



## The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 4

### Himachal urges Centre to explore possibility of running toy trains on green hydrogen on Kalka-Shimla route

The Hindu Bureau  
CHANDIGARH

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday urged the Centre to explore the possibility of running trains on the Kalka-Shimla narrow-gauge railway, a UNESCO world heritage site, on green hydrogen – a clean energy source

Mr. Sukhu said the transition would help the hill State in achieving its goal of becoming a 'green energy State' by 2026.

The Chief Minister, in a letter to the Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urged the Ministry to consider transforming this historic rail line into a green energy-powered route. "The State government aims to make Himachal Pradesh a green energy State by March 31, 2026, and has undertaken several initiatives to achieve this goal," he said.



A toy train runs on the Kalka-Shimla heritage track. FILE PHOTO

chal Pradesh a green energy State by March 31, 2026, and has undertaken several initiatives to achieve this goal," he said.

The Kalka-Shimla railway is a narrow-gauge railway in Himachal Pradesh, which traverses a mostly mountainous route from

Kalka to Shimla. On 8 July 2008, UNESCO declared the heritage railway as a World Heritage Site.

Mr. Sukhu said that the State government is working on a six-pronged strategy to transform the State into a certified green energy State, contributing sig-

nificantly to India's climate commitments and aligning with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This strategic transition will ensure a fair and just shift towards sustainable energy while also boosting the State's economy, he said.

"The State is on track to replace its current thermal power consumption of 1,500 Million Units (MUs) with renewable sources, including hydro, solar, and wind power. Currently, the State consumes 13,500 MUs of power, with a large portion already derived from renewable sources. Achieving 90% renewable energy consumption in the power distribution network will enable Himachal Pradesh to be certified as a fully green State of the

country. This transition is expected to be completed within a year and will also allow industries in the State to apply for the 'Eco Mark', enhancing the value of their products," he wrote.

#### 'Focus on solar power'

He added that the State government is also laying a strong focus on solar power generation, with plans to establish a capacity of 2,000 Megawatts over the next four to five years. The State is also making significant progress in the production of green hydrogen. "The first facility, in collaboration with Oil India Limited (OIL), is under way and discussions with private investors for more such facilities are ongoing," he added.

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has urged the Central government to explore the possibility of running trains on the Kalka-Shimla narrow-gauge railway, a UNESCO World Heritage site, using green hydrogen as a clean energy source. This initiative is part of the state's broader goal to become a "green energy state" by 2026.
- The state aims to replace its current thermal power consumption with renewable sources such as hydro, solar, and wind, aiming for 90% renewable energy consumption in its power distribution network by 2026.



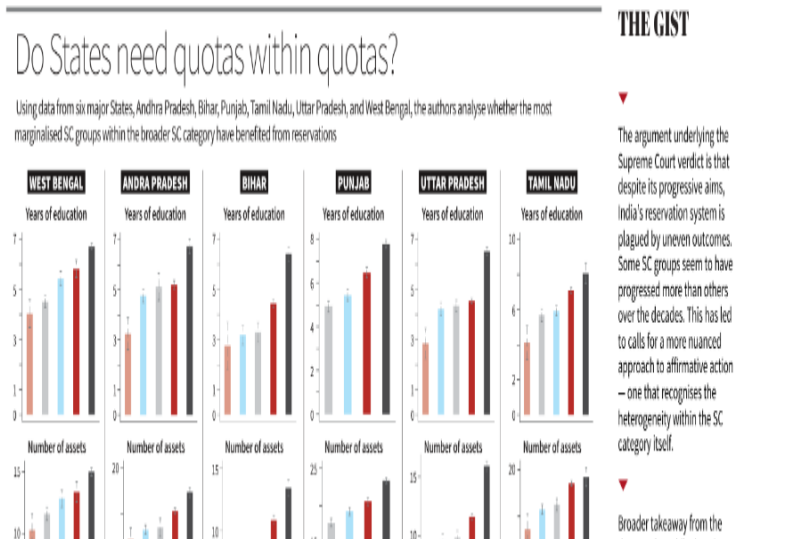
# Does data justify subdivision of quotas?

Recent debates have questioned whether a 'quota-within-quota' system is needed to ensure that affirmative action policies are more equitable across Scheduled Caste subgroups. Using data from six major States, one explores whether some SC castes have disproportionately benefited from reservations

### FULL CONTEXT

Ashwini Deshpande  
Rajesh Ramchandran

India's reservation system has long been a tool for uplifting historically marginalised communities, particularly the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Born out of the need to correct centuries of social and economic exclusion, reservations have opened the doors of higher education, government employment, and public offices for groups once condemned to the periphery of society. Yet, over 75 years since independence, questions are being raised about whether the system is serving its



- India's reservation system aims to uplift historically marginalized communities, particularly Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- Reservations were introduced to address centuries of social and economic exclusion, providing access to higher education, government jobs, and public offices.
- However, after 75 years, there are concerns about whether the system is equitably benefiting all SC subgroups.
- Some states, like Punjab, have tried subdividing the SC quota, but the effectiveness of this approach is debated.
- The Supreme Court's suggestion of a "creamy layer" exclusion for SCs (similar to Other Backward Classes) lacks sufficient evidence.
- Economic mobility alone doesn't eliminate discrimination for historically stigmatized groups. Discrimination persists in various forms, despite untouchability being abolished

The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 12

## India, Algeria sign pact to elevate defence cooperation, enhance strategic interests

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

India and Algeria concluded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on bilateral defence cooperation. This was signed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General



He interacted with the Director of the Higher War College and addressed senior officers of the of the People's National Army.

“India has reestablished its defence wing in Algeria and welcomes the reopening of defence wing of Algeria in India.” General Chau

- India and Algeria concluded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on bilateral defence cooperation. This was signed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and his counterpart, Chief of Staff of Algerian People's National Army Said Chanegriha.
- General Chauhan was on an official visit to the North African nation from October 31 to November 3.
- “The MoU elevates the defence partnership between both nations, fostering mutual understanding and enhancing strategic interests,
- India has reestablished its defence wing in Algeria and welcomes the reopening of defence wing of Algeria in India

## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 12

### SC issues directions to States, UTs to improve remission policy for convicts

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has issued a slew of directions aimed at standardising and improving the transparency of policies governing permanent remission for the convicts in the country.

The directions of the

**The Bench advised against applying “stereotype conditions” for remission grants**

tions for permanent remission within one week.

They will also have to forward copies of these re-

available in prisons across the country and uploaded in English on the relevant government websites.

Jail officials were instructed to ensure that convicts eligible for remission were informed of these policies as the top court was critical of the practice of withholding re-

case. It referred to its October 21, 2024, order in a case reinforcing that decisions on remission must reflect thoughtful deliberation. “We also direct that whenever there are modifications in the policies, the modified policies shall be made available in terms of the above direction.” it

- The Supreme Court has issued a slew of directions aimed at standardising and improving the transparency of policies governing permanent remission for the convicts in the country.
- The directions of the Bench comprising Justices Abhay S. Oka and Augustine George Masih mandate greater accessibility to policy information, timely communication of decisions, and individualised consideration of cases to prevent arbitrary conditions. The Bench was hearing a *suo motu* case of 2021 titled as “Policy Strategy for Grant of Bail” and directed all States and Union Territories to inform convicts of any rejection of applications for permanent remission within one week.
- They will also have to forward copies of these rejections to the district legal services authorities concerned to ensure appropriate steps were taken to provide legal aid to the convicts.

### Japan successfully launches defence satellite carried by new flagship H3 rocket

**MARI YAMAGUCHI**  
TOKYO, NOVEMBER 4

JAPAN LAUNCHED a defence satellite aimed at speedier communication and military operations on a new flagship H3 rocket on Monday and successfully placed it into orbit, as the country seeks to build up its military capability amid growing tension in the region.

The H3 No. 4 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre on a southwestern Japanese island. Everything went as planned and the satellite was successfully put into a targeted orbit, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, announced. The rocket

was carrying a Defense Ministry satellite, Kirameki No. 3, which uses X-band communication for information and data sharing, as well as military operations and command.

X-band satellite is less affected by weather conditions and is capable of supporting stable communication.

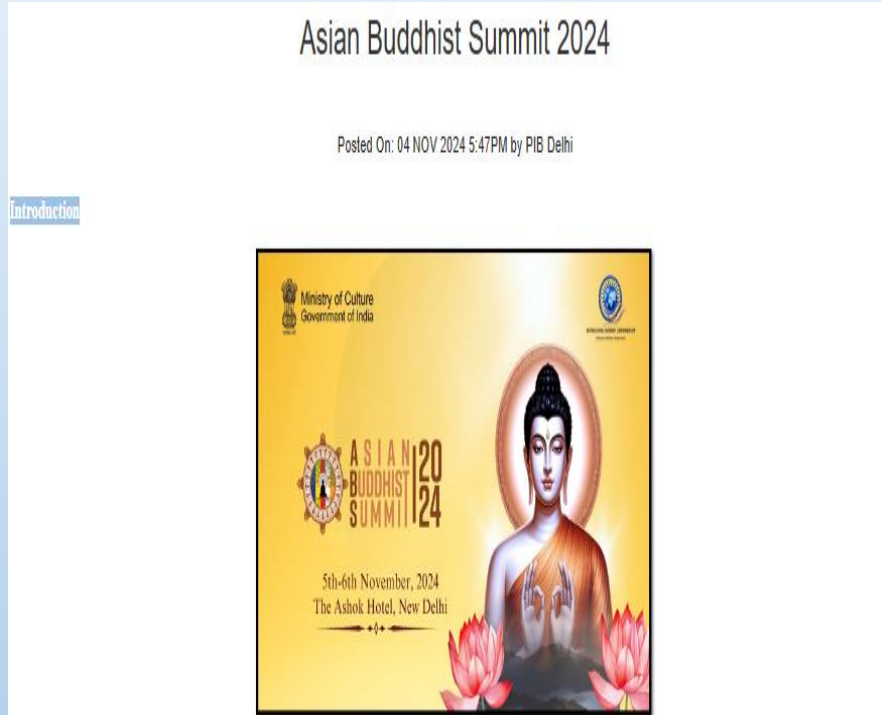
Maj. Gen. Yasuhiro Kato, the Joint Staff Systems Department chief said that the triple X-band communication satellite system would enable high-speed, large-capacity data transmission and communication across Japan's Ground, Maritime and Air Self Defence Forces, as well as with units deployed overseas on peacekeeping missions or exercises.

AP

- Japan launched a defense satellite, Kirameki No. 3, on a new H3 rocket on November 6, 2023, aimed at enhancing its military capabilities.
- The satellite is designed for information-gathering and military operations.
- Purpose of the Satellite:  
Kirameki No. 3 uses X-band communication for military operations and reconnaissance, including monitoring North Korean missile activity.
- The X-band system is less affected by weather conditions and provides stable communication.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB –History(GSI)



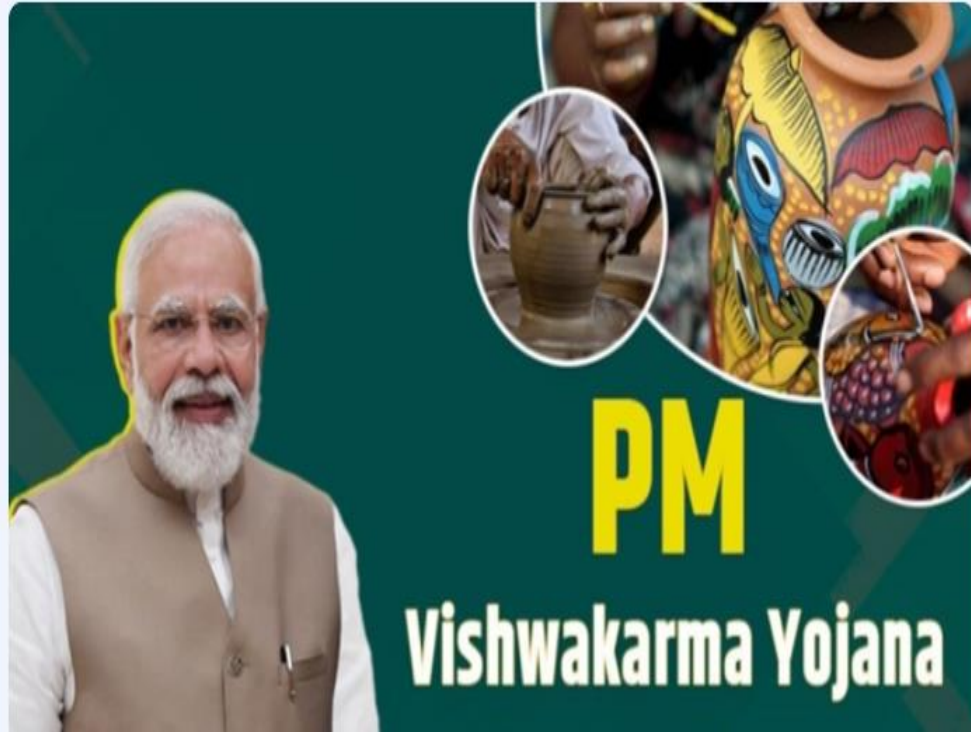
- India is hosting the First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) on November 5-6, 2024, in New Delhi, celebrating the country's rich Buddhist heritage. Organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the summit's theme is "Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia."
- India has been actively promoting its Buddhist heritage through various initiatives:
  - The Buddhist Circuit for tourism development.
  - The Global Buddhist Summit (2023) and International Buddhist Conferences to foster global dialogue on Buddhism's values.
  - Classical status for Pali (October 2024) and the International Abhidhamma Diwas (October 2024), emphasizing the importance of preserving Buddhist teachings.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**Air: Economy(GSIII)**

**PM Vishwakarma Scheme Gets Over 25 Million Applications Within A Year Of Its Launch**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM Vishwakarma scheme on 17th September 2023, at the Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi.
- PM Vishwakarma Yojana acts as a national integration programme that brings diverse crafts and craftsmen together. With over 18 trades in focus across the nation, it provides a platform for people and skills from every corner of the country to engage, blend and curate a mosaic of crafts