

DAILY PT POINTERS

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2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu-GS1(History)-Page5

Will establish Telugu varsity named after Potti Sriramulu: Naidu



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan felicitating the family members of Potti Sriramulu on his death anniversary on Sunday.

The Hindu Bureau

VIJAYAWADA

mation of India's first linguistic State was that it

Summary of Potti Sriramulu's Life and Contributions

Early Life: Born on March 16, 1901, in Madras (Chennai).

Involvement in Freedom Struggle: Joined Gandhiji's Sabarmati Ashram after personal tragedies.

- Participated in the Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement.
- **Work for Social Welfare:** Returned to Nellore in 1946 to work for the downtrodden.
- Championed the Dalit community's social and economic liberation.
- Fasted indefinitely for temple entry for Dalits.
- **Advocacy for a Separate Andhra State:** Proposed the formation of a separate state for Telugu-speaking territories after Gandhiji's death.
 - Began a fast on October 19, 1952, demanding a separate Andhra state.
 - Died on December 15, 1952, after 58 days of fasting.
 - **Formation of Andhra State:** Nehru announced the decision to form a separate Andhra state on December 19, 1952.

The Hindu-Species (GSIII)-Page5

More carcasses of Olive Ridley turtles continue to wash ashore in Vizag

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

Carcasses of Olive Ridley turtles continue to wash ashore along the Visakhapatnam coast.

Environmental experts say that a majority of the deaths are due to marine pollution and trawling ac-

tivities for catching fish.

National Fisherfolk Forum general secretary A. Dasu said, "At least 10 carcasses washed ashore at the Mangamaripeta beach on Saturday. This is a shocking experience. During this season, the turtles come close to the shore to lay eggs."

Olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

It gets its name from the olive green color of its heart-shaped shell.

It is among the **smallest of the world's sea turtles** .

It is found throughout the world primarily in the tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic oceans.

These turtles are best known for their unique mass nesting called **Arribada**, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

Odisha is the largest mass nesting site for Olive Ridleys in the world.

Protection status : Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
CITES: Appendix I

The Hindu-Environment (GSIII)-Page8

How would a carbon market function?

What are carbon credits and how would they be traded between firms? Why do corporations not want the government to be involved in the issue of carbon credits? Who introduced the concept of carbon credits? Why are some experts critical of carbon offsets?

EXPLAINER

The Hindu Bureau

The story so far:

COP29, the ongoing climate conference in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, has given a fillip to the idea of using carbon markets to curb carbon emissions by approving standards that can help in the setting up of an international carbon market as soon as the coming year.

What is a carbon market?

A carbon market is a market that allows the buying and selling of the right to emit carbon into the atmosphere. Suppose a government wants to limit the amount of carbon emitted into the atmosphere. It can issue certificates called carbon credits that allow the holder of the certificate to emit a certain amount of carbon into the



reporting system, like the Carbon Disclosure Project. They have been loathe to government interventions limiting carbon emissions, arguing that such budgeting may lead to output restrictions or rise in costs. They also point to varied production processes, some that might have diverse supply chains that might make it difficult to find the optimal carbon budget for their facilities. Large multinational corporations such as ExxonMobil and General Motors have advocated for carbon markets that allows free trading of carbon credits among firms at a price determined by market forces, that would allow these firms to purchase carbon credits from other firms, which don't need them as much. This they say, helps allocate carbon credits more efficiently than government diktat.

What can go wrong?

Even when there is a functioning carbon

THE GIST

A carbon market is a market that allows the buying and selling of the right to emit carbon into the atmosphere. Suppose a government wants to limit the amount of carbon emitted into the atmosphere. It can issue certificates called carbon credits that allow the holder of the certificate to emit a certain amount of carbon into the atmosphere.

However, corporations have preferred a voluntary reporting system, like the Carbon Disclosure Project. They have been loathe to government interventions limiting carbon

COP29 in Baku supports setting up international carbon markets.

Carbon markets involve buying and selling the right to emit carbon via carbon credits (1,000 kg of CO2 per credit).

Functioning of Carbon Markets: Governments limit carbon emissions by issuing carbon credits. Market forces determine the price of carbon credits based on supply and demand.

Includes trading of carbon offsets (e.g., businesses purchasing offsets from NGOs that plant trees).

Benefits of Carbon Markets:

Imposes costs on firms for emitting carbon, curbing pollution.

Encourages firms to monitor and report emissions.

Challenges and Criticisms:

Governments might increase the supply of credits, reducing emission control.

Possibility of firms cheating or virtue signaling with offsets.

Difficulty in determining the optimal supply of carbon credits.

Centre launches Jalvahak scheme for cargo movement via inland waterways

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday launched the Jalvahak scheme to boost long-haul cargo movement via inland waterways.

The scheme incentivises cargo transport on National Waterways 1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak) and provides an opportunity for the trade interests to explore movement of cargo via waterways with positive economic value proposition, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said.

He flagged off cargo ships *MV AAI*, *MV Homi Bhaba*, and *MV Trishul* along with two dumb barges *Ajay* and *Dikhu* from the G.R. Jetty in Kolkata.

This marks the beginning of fixed scheduled sailing service of cargo vessels from Haldia for NW-1



New network: Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, flags off cargo vessels in Kolkata on Sunday. PTI

(Ganga) and NW-2 (Brahmaputra), the Ministry said in a statement.

“With its advantage of being an economical, ecologically sound, and efficient mode of transportation, we want to boost cargo movement via waterways to decongest the railways and roadways,” Mr. Sonowal said.

Further, the regular scheduled freight service,

which began from Kolkata, will ensure that the cargo is transported and delivered within a stipulated time frame, he said.

35% reimbursement

The Jalvahak scheme offers reimbursement of up to 35% of the total operating expenditure incurred, the Ministry said.

To encourage the business proposition of vessel

operators, the scheme encourages cargo owners to hire vessels owned or operated by government entities. “The incentive scheme is ideal for major shipping companies, freight forwarders, trade bodies and associations that handle bulk and containerised cargo. By opting for the scheme, it provides them an opportunity to optimise their supply chain network. The scheme is initially valid for three years.”

The fixed day scheduled sailing service will ply vessels between Kolkata-Patna-Varanasi-Patna-Kolkata stretch of NW-1 and between Kolkata and Pandu in Guwahati on NW-2 via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR), the Ministry said.

UltraTech Cement said it became the first cement company to leverage NW-1 for gypsum transport at scale.

- The Jalvahak scheme was launched by the Centre to enhance long-haul cargo movement via inland waterways.

Objectives:

Incentivise cargo transport on National Waterways 1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak).

Decongest railways and roadways by promoting waterway transport.

Key Features:

Regular scheduled freight service started from Kolkata, ensuring timely transport.

Reimbursement of up to 35% of total operating expenditure for cargo transport.

Indian Express-IR(GSII) –Page-10

EASTERN MARITIME CORRIDOR

New eastern route cuts down shipping time, costs; promises to boost India-Russia trade

LIZ MATHEW & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

MIDWAY THROUGH 2024, as India surpassed China to become the largest buyer of Russian oil, the operationalisation of a new sea route — the Eastern Maritime Corridor — is beginning to play an increasingly significant role in boosting commodity trade between the two countries, especially crude oil shipments to India.

The new eastern route from Chennai to Vladivostok is translating into savings on two counts: shipment times between the two countries and thereby transportation costs. Trading of commodities such as crude, coal and LNG have already commenced via the new

EXIM DATA BETWEEN INDIA'S EASTERN PORTS (PARADIP, VIZAG, TUTICORIN, ENNORE, CHENNAI AND KOLKATA) AND RUSSIA SINCE JANUARY 2024

1. Exports - Top five product/commodity basket (by value) are Processed minerals, Iron and steel, Tea, Marine Products, Tea, Coffee

2. Imports - Crude Oil, Project Goods, Coal and Coke, Vegetable Oils, Fertilisers

Quantity wise import data of top 5 commodities are as follows:-
Petroleum crude, coal/ coke, manufactured fertilisers, vegetable oil, Iron and steel (all units normalised to tonnes)

(Source: Ministry of Shipping)

Quantity wise export data of top 5 commodities are as follows:-
process minerals, iron and steel, tea, granite and natural stones, processed fruits and juices (all units normalised to tonnes)

Imports from Russia to India (till Nov 2024)

| Commodity | Quantity in tonnes |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Petroleum: Crude | 16,883,881 |
| Coal, Coke and Briquettes etc | 3,739,847 |
| Fertilisers manufactured | 9,75,570 |

TRADE ROUTED THROUGH PORTS ON INDIA'S EASTERN SEABOARD

ency level of over 85 per cent had surpassed China as the largest buyer of Russian oil. Towards the second half of the year, India's imports declined somewhat after refiners in the country took their annual maintenance shutdown. Despite the decline in overall import volumes of Russian oil, shipments of the country's flagship crude grade — the medium-sour Urals — were at a four-month high in October. Urals is also the mainstay of India's Russian oil purchases, and accounted for over three-fourths of Russian oil imported by Indian refiners. Import of some other Russian crude grades, however, declined sharply. Prior to the war in Ukraine, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were the two suppliers of crude oil to India.

- In 2024, India became the largest buyer of Russian oil, surpassing China.
- The Eastern Maritime Corridor (Chennai-Vladivostok) has boosted trade, especially crude oil shipments to India.
- **Benefits:** Reduced Shipping Time: Time reduced to 24 days (down from 40+ days via traditional route).
- Cost Savings: Lower transportation costs due to shorter route.
- **Trade Details:** Top Imports to India: Crude oil, project goods, coal and coke, vegetable oils, fertilisers.
- Top Exports to Russia: Processed minerals, iron and steel, tea, marine products, coffee.

Does POSH Act apply to political parties? Here's what to know

WJOY SINHA KARPURAM & DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

THE SUPREME Court last week heard a PIL stating that the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) should apply to political parties.

The court directed the petitioner, advocate Yogamaya M G, to first approach the Election Commission of India (ECI) as they were the competent authority "to prevail upon the recognised political parties for creation of an in-house mechanism to deal with complaints of sexual harassment" in a way consistent with provisions of the POSH Act.

The POSH Act requires both public and private workplaces to set up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to hear complaints of sexual harassment. The plea in question claims that when it comes to political parties "the presence of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) to address sexual harassment is inconsistent".

This case has sparked a conversation on how the POSH Act applies, if at all, to organisations like political parties, which often lack a traditional workplace structure.

Who does the POSH Act apply to?

Section 3(1) of the POSH Act states that "No woman shall be subjected to sexual harassment at any workplace". This immediately tells us how the POSH Act will apply – at the workplace, and only when the aggrieved party is a woman.

The definition of "workplace" in the POSH Act is expansive. It includes organisations, institutions, and other public sector bodies that are "established, owned, controlled or wholly or substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly by the appropriate Government", as well as organisations in the private sector, hospitals, nursing

homes, sports venues, houses. It even covers locations visited by an employee "during the course of employment".

With regards to political parties, however, things are unclear.

Prior to the latest PIL, the judiciary has only ever addressed this question once when the Kerala High Court decided the case of *Centre for Constitutional Rights Research and Advocacy v State of Kerala & Ors* (2022), in which it heard several petitions seeking the establishment of ICCs in television, film, news, and political organisations.

On the subject of political parties, the court held that there is no "employer-employee relationship with its members" and political parties do not carry out "any private venture, undertaking, enterprises, institution, establishment, etc. in contemplation of a 'workplace' (under the POSH Act)". As such, the court held that political parties "are

not liable to make any Internal Complaints Committee".

Could the POSH Act apply to political parties?

The POSH Act is meant to protect women from sexual harassment in the "workplace". But what is a "workplace" when it comes to a political party? Party workers, for instance, who parties tend to employ in droves, often have little interaction with high-level officials and are hired temporarily to operate on the field without a defined "workplace".

Moreover, if the court or the ECI does decide to make the POSH Act applicable to political parties, it will have to clarify who the "employer" is in the context of a political party, as the employer is responsible for setting up the ICC to handle cases of sexual harassment at the workplace.

In theory, however, the POSH Act could

still apply to political parties. The term "workplace" under the POSH Act includes locations visited by an employee "during the course of employment", which could conceivably allow the Act's protections to extend to party workers in the field. The POSH Act also provides a wide definition for the term "employee", and includes people who are employed temporarily, contract-workers, or volunteers "with or without the knowledge of the principal employer".

Further, party Constitutions often provide organisational hierarchies which could help determine who the "employer" would be. The BJP Constitution and Rules, for instance, provides details of a seven-level organisational structure, beginning with Local Committees up to the national level, with an exhaustive list of members and office bearers at each level.

At present, how do parties handle sexual harassment complaints?

Currently, parties handle internal discipline through their committees.

For example, the Congress Constitution and Rules, creates a hierarchy of committees and allows higher level committees to take action against committees and individual members that are subordinate to it.

The BJP Constitution establishes a "Disciplinary Action Committee" at the national and state levels.

Both Constitutions list actions that would be considered "breach of Discipline". But sexual harassment could conceivably only fall under one of the broad headings such as "Acting in a way calculated to lower the prestige of the Party..." (BJP) with a similar breach listed in the Congress Constitution) or "Being guilty of offences involving moral turpitude..." (Congress Constitution).

There is also no requirement for these committees to have women or external members, as would be required of an ICC under the POSH Act.

**EXPLAINED
LAW**

Supreme Court Hearing:

A PIL was heard on December 9, 2024, seeking the application of the POSH Act to political parties.

The court directed the petitioner to approach the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the creation of an in-house mechanism to handle sexual harassment complaints.

POSH Act Requirements: The Act mandates both public and private workplaces to set up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) for sexual harassment complaints.

The definition of "workplace" is broad, covering various sectors and locations visited during employment.

Challenges for Political Parties:

Political parties often lack a traditional workplace structure and employer-employee relationships.

The Kerala High Court previously ruled that political parties are not liable to establish ICCs as they do not fit the definition of a "workplace" under the POSH Act.

Representation of People Act (RP Act): Governs the registration and functioning of political parties.

Requires parties to provide details such as office bearers, local units, and members.

Locked in court battle, here is why Sanganer open jail near Jaipur is unique

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 15

A SUPREME Court-appointed commissioner last week visited the Sanganer open prison, among the largest such facilities in India.

This came after a dispute arose over the Rajasthan government's plan to build a hospital over some of the land being used by the jail.

On November 25, a Bench of Justices B R Gavai and Justice R V Vishwanathan said there has to be a balance

"between the needs of having the Open Correctional Home and also a Hospital, which shall cater to the needs of the citizens residing in the vicinity". The Bench appointed a commissioner to inspect the site, and submit a report within four weeks.

What is an open prison?

The Model Prisons and Correctional

Services Act, 2023, defines an open correctional institution, as a "place for confinement of eligible prisoners on such conditions, as may be prescribed under the rules, for giving them more liberty outside a regular prison for facilitating their rehabilitation after release".

Open jails have minimum security, and convicts are permitted to venture out for various activities, including agriculture.

Such facilities help reduce overcrowding in jails, and make it easier for prisoners to reintegrate into society once their term is over.

Some open prisons are simply separately marked areas within closed jails. In some states, there are separate open penal colonies where prisoners reside with their spouses, although their movement is restricted.

With prisons being a state subject, most states have their own criteria for convicts eligible to be incarcerated in such a facility. These include the nature of their crime,



The Sanganer open jail complex has a primary school on its premises, which is open to children of nearby localities.

Rohit Jain/Panos

istence for nearly half a century, a legal framework on their establishment and function was present in only 13 states. The committee recommended using land near closed prisons for open jails, and said that open jails should be "work-based", engaging prisoners in activities like agriculture and dairy-farming. The committee also suggested that such open-air jails should be set up close to public projects, like building of dams, and recommended that inmates should be given uniform wages.

According to the Prison Statistics of India 2022, the latest available data on the issue, there are currently 91 open jails in 17 states with a capacity of 6,043 inmates, and over 4,473 prisoners lodged. Rajasthan, with 41 prisons, has the highest number of open jails, followed by Maharashtra which has 19, according to the report.

What is unique about the Sanganer open jail?

The Sanganer open jail, officially called the Sampuranand Khula Bandi Shivir, was

operated since then, and is considered to be one of the most unique open prisons in the world. Located some 15 km from Jaipur, it houses 422 prisoners including 14 women and their families. Prisoners here stay not only with their spouses but also their children.

Inmates pay for the water and electricity they use, and venture out for jobs (such as running grocery shops) within the local community. They make and renovate their own homes with money collected through their work.

The prison also has bandi panchayats, where prisoners have set up ways of self-governance, including conducting roll calls twice daily to ensure that all inmates are back at the end of the day in the open-air camp. They also have access to phones. The complex has a primary school, which is open to children of nearby localities as well, anganwadis, and a playground.

Criteria for eligibility to this jail includes completion of a term of six years, eight months, and factors like conduct.

EXPLAINED
POLICY

A court commissioner was appointed to inspect Sanganer open prison due to a dispute over the Rajasthan government's plan to build a hospital on some of the jail's land.

Open Prisons: Defined as facilities offering more liberty to eligible prisoners to aid rehabilitation.

States have their own criteria for selecting convicts based on crime nature, behavior, and sentence completion.

Sanganer Open Jail:

One of the largest and most unique open jails in India, operational since 1963.

Located near Jaipur, housing 422 prisoners who live with their families and work in the local community.

Features self-governance through bandi panchayats and amenities like schools and anganwadis.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



RBI Increases Collateral-Free Agricultural Loan Limit from ₹1.6 to ₹2 Lakh

Posted On: 14 DEC 2024 10:17AM by PIB Delhi

RBI increased the limit for collateral-free agricultural loans from ₹1.6 lakh to ₹2 lakh per borrower.

Objective:

Address rising input costs and inflation.

Enhance financial access for farmers without the burden of providing collateral.

Implementation:

Effective from January 1, 2025.

Banks are instructed to waive collateral and margin requirements for loans up to ₹2 lakh.

Expeditious implementation and widespread publicity to ensure awareness among farmers.

Impact:

Increases credit accessibility, especially for small and marginal farmers (over 86% of the sector).

Reduces borrowing costs and boosts investment in agricultural operations.

Expected to increase the uptake of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans.

Air-IR(GSII)

Britain Becomes First European Nation To Join CPTPP



- Britain became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming the 12th member. The bloc comprises Canada and Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- The UK, following its 2016 Brexit referendum, is attempting to establish new trade deals abroad after signing the accession treaty with most EU members.
- Established in 2018, the bloc safeguards against Chinese hegemony in the region, providing British companies access to a market of over 500 million people, contributing over 15% of the world's GDP.