

# DAILY PT POINTERS

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## The Hindu-GS2(IR)-Page1

### Modi, Dissanayake take up regional security issues

Sri Lankan President says he will not allow his country's territory to be used to target India; New Delhi converts project loans to grants, agrees to expedite energy, digital cooperation

Suhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said here on Monday that he would not allow his country's territory to be used against India.

"I assured the Indian leader that Sri Lanka will not permit its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India as well as towards regional stability," Mr. Dissanayake said, speaking to the media along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House, the official meeting venue.

India promised Mr. Dissanayake, who is on his maiden visit to New Delhi after sweeping presidential and parliamentary elections, to continue its grants



Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake with Narendra Modi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

help it tide over its economic problems.

The two leaders said they discussed a number of issues, including regional security, digital infrastruc-

energy projects, as well as the Tamil issue and rights of fishermen. India announced it would convert loans given to Sri Lanka into grants for railway sig-

Kankesanthurai port, and extended a \$20.66 million grant to settle payment for projects already completed, which had originally been signed under a 'Letter of Credit' or loan. The two countries agreed to continue their partnership on energy projects, including connecting to a common grid, an India-Sri Lanka "multi-product pipeline" with UAE support, LNG supplies, and completing the Sampur coal power project.

Briefing the media, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri indicated the statement by the Sri Lankan President could have a bearing on Sri Lanka's clearance for foreign vessels, particularly Chinese ships.

CONTINUED ON

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## The Hindu-Geography (GSI)-Page10

# How does La Niña affect India's climate?

How do the La Niña and El Niño influence global atmospheric circulation and weather patterns? What is a Triple Dip La Niña? If a La Niña was to form now, how would it affect the current Indian winters and subsequent summers and monsoons as well?

### EXPLAINER

Mohammad Rafiuddin  
Shikhar Tiwari  
Rishikesh P.

#### The story so far:

While the La Niña was expected to emerge by July this year, it is yet to. The India Meteorological Department now expects a La Niña to set in by late 2024 or early 2025, plus a milder winter due to this delay.

#### What is La Niña?

La Niña, a phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), occurs when the region of the Pacific Ocean between Indonesia and South America is cooler than usual. Its counterpart, El Niño,

### Weather fluctuations

La Niña, a phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), occurs when the region of the Pacific Ocean between Indonesia and South America is cooler than usual. Its counterpart, El Niño, represents a warming of the same region



FIGURE 1: Planetary Boundary Layer Height (PBLH) is slightly lower during La Niña. But the difference is only noticeable during daytime. This could lead to more trapping of pollutants near the surface

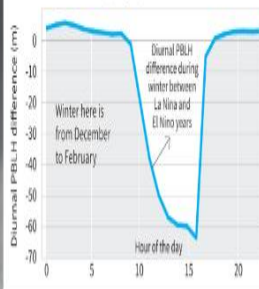


FIGURE 2: Wind speed is higher throughout the day during La Niña compared with El Niño. This could counter the impact of lower temperatures and help in lowering pollutant concentration levels



higher. Meteorological parameters like wind speed and planetary boundary layer height (PBLH) – the lowest atmospheric layer directly influenced by land-atmosphere interactions – also vary during ENSO phases, affecting air quality.

The team found the average wind speed is higher throughout the day during La Niña winters. Faster winds help reduce air pollution by transporting pollutants away. They also found that the average PBLH is slightly lower during La Niña winters. If La Niña sets in, lower temperatures in north India may lead people to burn more biomass for heating, worsening air pollution. A lower PBLH could also trap more pollutants near the ground. But higher wind speeds could disperse the pollutants, potentially leading to better air quality.

What about La Niña and monsoons?

### THE GIST

During La Niña years, India receives normal or above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season. Yet the same phenomenon causes droughts in Africa and intensifies hurricanes over the Atlantic Ocean.

An analysis of meteorological data over 35 years by researchers at the Council on Energy Environment and Water, New Delhi, has revealed that while La Niña winters feature colder nights compared to El Niño, daytime

- La Niña, a phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), occurs when the Pacific Ocean between Indonesia and South America is cooler than usual, influencing global weather patterns. During La Niña years, India typically experiences normal or above-normal monsoon rainfall, while it causes droughts in Africa and intensifies hurricanes in the Atlantic. The decade began with three consecutive La Niña events (2020-2022), followed by an El Niño in 2023.
- Climate change may increase the frequency and intensity of both phenomena.
- Although La Niña was expected to emerge by mid-2024, it has not yet formed. There is only a 57% chance of it developing later in 2024, and if it does, it may be weak. Typically, La Niña forms during the monsoon or pre-monsoon period, and it has rarely occurred between October and December since 1950.

## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page10

### What is the procedure for removing judges?

Why have some Rajya Sabha members called for the removal of Allahabad High Court Judge, Justice Yadav?

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

Fifty-five MPs of the Rajya Sabha have submitted a motion, for removing Allahabad High Court Judge, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, to Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

What is the procedure for removal?

Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution provide that a judge of the Supreme Court/High Court shall be removed by the President, on the grounds of 'proved misbehaviour' or 'incapacity' after a motion is passed in each House of Parliament by a majority of the total

opted in various cases that wilful misconduct in office, corruption, lack of integrity or any other offence involving moral turpitude would constitute misbehaviour. Incapacity here means a medical condition that may include physical or mental incapacity.

The detailed procedure for removal is provided in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. It stipulates that a notice of motion for removal should be signed by not less than 50 members in the Rajya Sabha and 100 members in the Lok Sabha. The Chairman or Speaker may after due consideration and consultation admit or refuse to admit the motion. If admitted, a three-member committee will be

suffering from incapacity, the committee report will be taken up in the Houses of Parliament which would then need to pass the motion with special majority.

What is the current issue?

Justice Yadav made communally-charged remarks while speaking at an event organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. He is reported to have said the country would be run according to the wishes of the majority. The 'Reinstatement of Values of Judicial Life' adopted by the Supreme Court in 1997, and followed by all the High Courts, mandates that behaviour and conduct of members of the higher judiciary must reaffirm people's

include violation of code of conduct for the judges. This bill proposed imposition of 'minor measures,' like issuing warnings, public or private censure, withdrawal of judicial work for a limited time etc., for misconduct that does not warrant removal.

What is required?

The Blackstone's ratio in criminal jurisprudence that 'it is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer' can be applied even when it comes to the removal of judges.

The stringent process with the requirement of special majority in both houses has resulted in the non-removal of judges even after having been found guilty of misbehaviour by the inquiry committee. This is nevertheless essential to protect the independence of judges while discharging their duties. The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, against whom himself a notice of motion for removal has been submitted, is unlikely to admit the present motion. The Supreme Court has issued a notice seeking details of the controversial speech made by Justice Yadav. The Judge is likely to appear

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#### What is the procedure for removal?

- Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution provide that a judge of the Supreme Court/High Court shall be removed by the President, on the grounds of 'proved misbehaviour' or 'incapacity' after a motion is passed in each House of Parliament by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members of that House present and voting (special majority) in the same session. The Constitution does not define the terms 'proved misbehaviour' or 'incapacity.'
- The Supreme Court has opined in various cases that wilful misconduct in office, corruption, lack of integrity or any other offence involving moral turpitude would constitute misbehaviour. Incapacity here means a medical condition that may include physical or mental incapacity.

Indian Express-Governance(GSII) –Page-16

## Religion and reservation

The relationship between religion and reservation – at the heart of several cases including one before the SC currently – has been debated since the commencement of the Constitution. The top court said in 1992 that religion cannot be the sole criterion for reservation, but to what extent can it be considered?

**AJOY SINHA KARPURAM**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

THE SUPREME COURT orally observed last week that “reservation cannot be on the basis of religion”. The Bench of Justices BR Gai and KV Viswanathan was hearing a challenge to the May 22 Calcutta High Court decision which struck down reservation for 77 communities (classes) – 75 of which were Muslim – within the quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC).

On November 26, the court had rejected an appeal against the denial of a Scheduled Caste (SC) certificate to a woman from Puducherry after holding that she was “a born Christian and could not be associated with any caste”.

The relationship between religion and reservations has been debated since the commencement of the Constitution in 1950. Both the Centre and Supreme Court have sought to define the extent to which religion can be considered for providing reservation.

### OBC quota for Muslims

Article 16(4) of the Constitution gives the State power to reserve “posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State”. While there is no bar on identifying a religious group as the beneficiary of reservation within the OBC and



Dalit converts to Islam and Christianity are not included in the SC quota. Archive

Mandal case (*Indra Sawhney v Union of India*) the SC said the purpose of the OBC quota was to address historical discrimination faced by certain groups, and “No class of citizens can be classified as backward solely by reason of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them.”

In essence, the court held that while religion and other factors of group identity were relevant, they could not be the sole criteria to provide reservation within the OBC quota.

Based on this ruling, the Calcutta High

court from the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste”. The Order was originally restricted to Hindus, but was later expanded to include SC Hindus who converted to Sikhism (in 1956), and Buddhism (in 1990).

The Order was challenged in 1983 by a cobbler named Soosai who belonged to the SC Adi-Dravida community but was denied access to a government scheme for SCs because he was a Christian convert. Soosai argued before the top court that the Scheduled

Order in 2004 to look into various issues of India’s linguistic and religious minorities found “the caste system to be an all-pervading social phenomenon...shared by almost all Indian communities irrespective of religious persuasions”.

The Commission recommended that “once a person has been included in a Scheduled Caste list a willful change of religion on his part should not affect adversely his or her Scheduled Caste status”.

The findings of the panel were disputed in later years. Converts to Islam and Christianity remain excluded from the scope of reservations.

### Questions before top court

The constitutional validity of the 1950 Scheduled Castes Order was challenged again in *Ghazi Saaduddin v. State of Maharashtra*. The case has been pending since 2004, but the court said in 2011 that it would examine Clause 3 and the constitutionality of not including Christians and Muslims alongside Buddhists and Sikhs.

In April 2024, the court decided to delay hearing arguments in the case after noting that the Centre had set up a commission to examine whether religious converts should retain their Scheduled Caste status. The Centre had submitted that it had not accepted the Ranganath Misra Commission’s 2007 report,

- Supreme Court observed that “Reservation cannot be on the basis of religion” while hearing a challenge to Calcutta HC’s decision to strike down OBC reservations for 77 classes, mostly Muslim.

Supreme Court refused SC status to a woman who converted to Christianity.

### Reservations:

Article 16(4) allows states to provide reservations to backward classes.

Indra Sawhney judgment (1992) ruled religion cannot be the sole criterion for OBC reservations.

Article 341(1) lists communities deemed as SCs.

Scheduled Castes Order, 1950 excludes non-Hindus, non-Sikhs, non-Buddhists from SC status.

- Court in *Soosai v. Union of India* (1985) held converts must prove continued caste-related disadvantages to access SC benefits.
- Ranganath Mishra Commission (2007) recommended including all converts; findings disputed by the Centre.

### IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS (IPF), WHICH LED TO ZAKIR HUSSAIN'S DEATH

**PARUL**  
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 16

**TABLA MAESTRO** Zakir Hussain passed away on Sunday in San Francisco due to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a lung disease. According to Dr Deepak Bhasin, Senior Director of Pulmonology, Critical Care, at Max Hospital in Mohali, "It is a chronic, progressive lung disease characterised by scarring of the lung tissue, leading to irreversible loss of lung function. The exact cause of IPF is unknown, so it is termed idiopathic (without a clear origin)."

IPF belongs to a group of conditions called interstitial lung diseases (ILDs), which involve inflammation or scarring in the lung.

#### How does IPF lead to lung scarring?

IPF is believed to result from problems in the way the body deals with injuries. "The body's healing process plays a critical role in scarring. When the lungs experience injury — due to environmental factors like dust, smoke, or infections, or possibly even from autoimmune responses — the body attempts to repair the damaged tissue. In a healthy response, this repair is controlled and temporary. However, in IPF, this repair process becomes dysregulated, and the body overproduces collagen and other fibrous materials. Instead of normal lung tissue regenerating, excessive scar tis-

fibrosis causes the lungs to thicken and stiffen, making their expansion harder and impacting breathing. Symptoms include shortness of breath (dyspnea), dry cough, fatigue, and weight loss. Over time, oxygen levels in the blood drop, causing complications such as pulmonary hypertension, heart failure, or respiratory failure, according to doctors.

IPF is also known to specifically target the interstitium, which is the tissue surrounding the air sacs (alveoli), making it harder for oxygen to enter the bloodstream.

#### Who is at risk of the disease?

Dr Arun Kochar, Additional Director of Cardiology at Fortis Hospital in Mohali, said the incidence of IPF worldwide ranges between 0.09 and 1.30 per 10,000 people. The figures are similar for India.

Most cases occur in people over 50 years; men are at a slightly higher risk than women. Current or former smokers have a higher risk, and genetic predisposition also plays a role in some cases. Prolonged exposure to dust, wood, or metal particles could additionally increase the likelihood of contracting the disease.

#### How do diagnosis, treatment work?

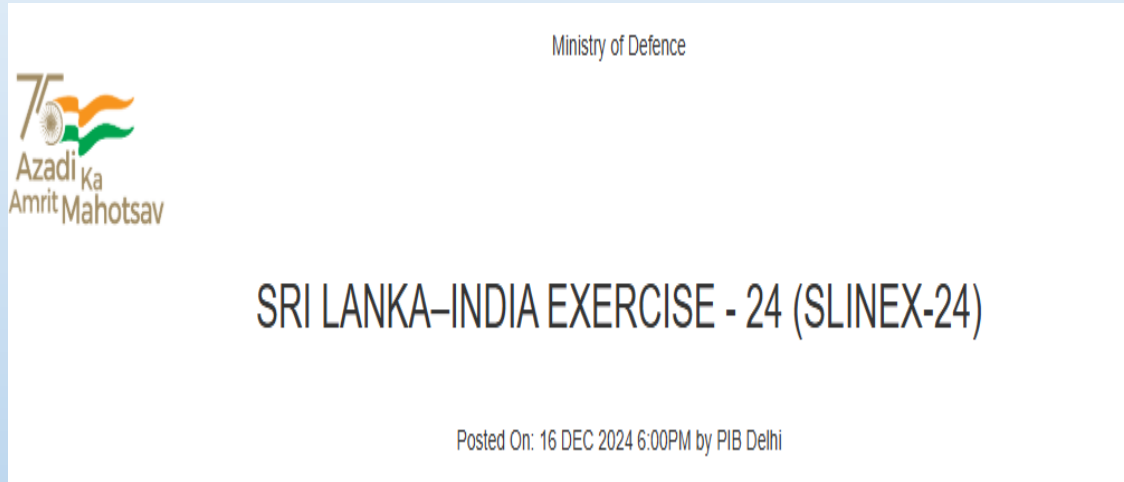
High-resolution CT scans, pulmonary function tests, and lung biopsies can help confirm the diagnosis. However, doctors say it is essential to rule out other causes

- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a severe chronic lung disease where the tissue around the alveoli becomes thick and stiff, leading to permanent scarring (fibrosis) and progressively worsening breathing. The condition often develops for unknown reasons, but those with a history of smoking, a family history of IPF, or advanced age are at higher risk.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Defence(GSIII)



- The bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2024 (Sri Lanka–India Exercise) will be conducted from 17 to 20 Dec 24 at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command.
- The exercise will be held in two phases - the Harbour Phase from 17 to 18 December and the Sea Phase from 19 to 20 December.
- Initiated in 2005, SLINEX is a significant series of bilateral naval exercises that have strengthened maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka over the years

## Air-Economy(GSIII)

### Government Launches Credit Guarantee Scheme To Ease Loan Access For Farmers Via E-NWR



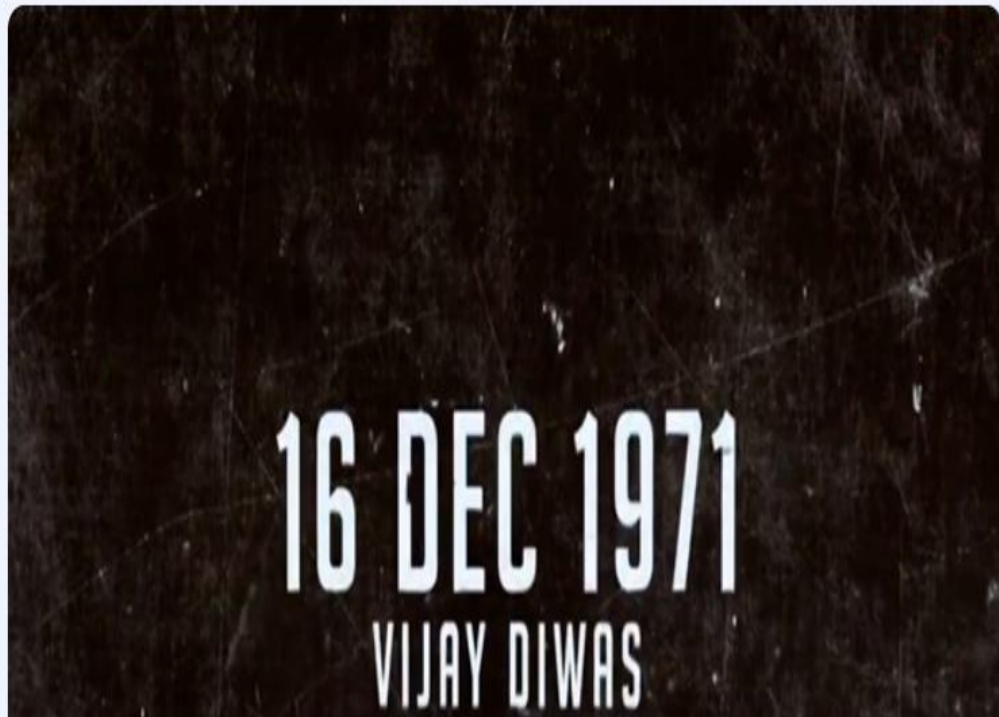
- The Union Government today launched the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR-Based Pledge Financing.' Under this scheme, farmers will now be able to get a loan through their produce.
- After submitting their produce to warehouses registered with the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), they will be issued an electronic negotiable warehouse receipt (e-NWR). This receipt can be used as a guarantee against default to obtain low-interest loans from banks and other lending institutes. Farmers, farmers' producer organisations, farm cooperatives, and MSMEs will be eligible under this scheme.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GSII)

## Nation Celebrates Vijay Diwas To Commemorate India's 1971 Victory Over Pakistan



- The nation celebrates Vijay Diwas to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. Rich tributes are being paid to the martyrs who laid down their lives during the war.
- It was on this day in 1971, that the chief of the Pakistani forces, General AA Khan Niazi, along with 93 thousand troops, surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini. The end of the war also resulted in the subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Environment(GSIII)

### Moldova Signs ISA Framework Agreement, Joins Global Efforts For Clean Energy & Sustainability



Moldova has signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement and officially joined the ISA.

- **Moldova**, is a landlocked country lying in the northeastern corner of the Balkan region of Europe. It is bordered by Ukraine and Romania. Chisinau – the Capital
- The International Solar Alliance is an international organisation with 120 Member and Signatory countries. It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promote solar power as a sustainable transition to a carbon-neutral future. ISA's mission is to unlock US\$1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing. It promotes the use of solar energy in the agriculture, health, transport, and power generation sectors.