

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page1

Plastic treaty talks fail amid split over production cuts

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Delegates from nearly 170 countries who gathered in Busan, South Korea, failed to agree on a framework agreement to eliminate plastic pollution, despite a week of negotiations.

While this was the fifth and officially final round of talks of the Intergovernmental Negotiations Committee that began in 2022, ultimately the chasm between the blocs of countries – those that saw cutting plastic production as necessary to eliminate plastic waste and those that didn't – proved too wide to overcome.

Countries, however,



Delegates pose for a group photo at the end of a member state press briefing during the fifth meeting of the INC in Busan. AFP

negotiations, likely sometime next year, under the tentative banner of INC-5.2.

As of Sunday evening, the assembly of countries in the final plenary expressed disappointment as well their reservations on

text, which was synthesised by the Chair of the proceedings, Luis Vayas Valdivieso, following negotiations by countries in an attempt to cobble together an agreement.

CONTINUED ON

- Delegates from nearly 170 countries met in Busan, South Korea, to negotiate a framework for eliminating plastic pollution but failed to reach an agreement. The fifth and final round of talks revealed a significant divide between countries advocating for reductions in plastic production and those opposing such measures. While some, like the European Union, pushed for action on the entire lifecycle of plastics, including cutting production, others, including Saudi Arabia, India, and Kuwait, opposed such regulations due to economic concerns tied to petrochemicals and plastic production.
- The talks saw disagreements over key issues, such as setting targets for reducing virgin plastic production and phasing out certain plastic products by 2040. India, for instance, argued that regulating primary plastic production would impede its development. Despite these setbacks, countries decided to resume negotiations in 2025 under the tentative label INC-5.2.

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Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during a press meet on 'Rythu Panduga' in Hyderabad on Sunday. NAGARA GOPAL

Will disburse Rythu Bharosa funds after Sankranti: Revanth

- Rythu Bharosa funds will be deposited in the accounts of eligible farmers after Sankranti, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced.
- The Rythu Bandhu or Agricultural Investment Support Scheme is Telangana's flagship direct benefit transfer programme, which provides Rs.5,000 an acre as assistance to all landowning farmers for each crop season. The scheme is aimed at meeting the "initial investment needs" and meant to "ensure that farmers do not fall again into the debt trap". The farmers can choose to spend the amount on seeds, fertilizers, labour costs, or their personal consumption needs.

The Hindu-Economy(GSIII) –Page10

‘Vadhavan port will be a game changer for India’

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The Vadhavan greenfield port, which is under construction near Dahanu in Maharashtra, will double India’s container trade from the current levels upon completion. Scheduled to be finished by 2034, it is projected to be among the top 10 ports in the world, according to Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Chairman of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA).

es are completed in 2034. By 2029, four terminals will be completed and five terminals will be added by 2034. This will double India’s container capacity, from what is there today,” Mr. Wagh told *The Hindu* recently.

While the project conceptualisation was there since 1991-92, it has not made progress. But it will become a reality soon, he stated.

The project with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore is be-

with shareholding of 74% and 26%, respectively.

‘Need another port’

Talking of the significance of the port, for which the foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 30, Mr. Wagh said the western side and northern side of the country represent 75% of EXIM (export-import) container trade.

Noting that other regions have other ports and do not require that much

ity. “India desperately needs another port, otherwise it will not take care of the growing demand of the EXIM trade. This port will take care of that. We have all clearances in place,” he added.

The National Highways Authority is executing some of the peripheral works currently. Apart from that, nothing is required outside, as everything is inside the sea, 10 km offshore. “There is no displacement, no flooding, no

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- “This will be world’s top 10 port once both the phases are completed in 2034. By 2029, four terminals will be completed and five terminals will be added by 2034. This will double India’s container capacity, from what is there today,”
- The project with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore is being constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), a joint venture between JNPA and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), with shareholding of 74% and 26%, respectively.

The Hindu-Health(GSII) –Page12

New HIV infections declined 44% in 2023, AIDS-related deaths down 79%, says Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's sustained efforts have ensured that the prevalence of HIV epidemic in the country remained in low levels over the years, with new infections in 2023 almost 44% lower than in 2010, while AIDS-related deaths declined by 79%, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said at an event held on Sunday to mark World AIDS Day.

Data released by the Ministry showed that HIV prevalence in adults continued to be high in Mizoram and Nagaland, closely followed by Manipur. Further, its rising trend in Punjab is a cause for concern.

It continues to be high among high-risk groups such as women sex workers, transgender people, truckers and migrants.

The rising trend of prevalence in Punjab is a cause for concern, show data

According to the HIV burden estimation report, which provides updated evidence of the prevalence level and trend of the HIV epidemic, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana had an estimated adult prevalence higher than 0.4% (the national prevalence stands at 0.20%).

25.44 lakh people

The report said that even with the low prevalence, India still had an estimated 25.44 lakh people living with HIV in 2023. Women aged 15-plus accounted for 44% of it, while nearly 3% of the cases were among children.

Speaking at a function held in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, the Minister noted that India in the past adopted a 90-90-90 target for combating AIDS, referring to the targets of detecting 90% cases of AIDS in the country, treating 90% of identified people with antiretroviral therapy (ART), and having the viral load suppressed in 90% of them. He said the targets were later increased to 95-95-95, of which now 81% people with AIDS had been identified, 88% were being given ART, and the viral load in 97% had been suppressed.

Mr. Nadda emphasised the importance of caution to prevent HIV infection, the need to adopt a healthy lifestyle, and the significance of raising awareness while combating stereotypes through various initiatives.

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The Hindu-Economy(GSIII) –Page12

Centre working on national policy document on female labour force participation

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Centre will soon bring out a national policy document on female labour force participation with a focus on providing an enabling atmosphere like a viable care economy structure.

An inter-ministerial team from the Ministries of Skill Development, Labour, Rural Development, and Women and Child Development is working on it, informed sources told *The Hindu*.

Care economy is the sector of economic activities related to the provision of care, both paid and unpaid, for the present and future populations. It includes direct care, such as feeding a baby, as well as indirect care, such as cooking and cleaning, health care education and other



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one-third of the female pre-marital employment rate, even in the absence of children.

Core skilling package

One of the initiatives being explored is a core skilling package for caregivers for children, the sources said. The policy paper will also look at providing child care facilities for women in the informal sector such as for workers under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development already runs the 'Palna' scheme, or the National Programme on Anganwadi-cum-Crèche, which provides day-care facilities for children of working parents. A total of 1,000 Anganwadi creches have been made operational till now as part of this scheme, the sources said

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Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page 9

Prior sanction: what SC said on ED cases against public officials

SOHINI GHOSH
(NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1)

ITING AS precedent a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress MP P. Chidambaram moved the Delhi High Court, seeking a stay on their respective trials. While Chidambaram's trial in the Aircel-Maxis case was stayed on November 20, the HC is still hearing Kejriwal's plea regarding the excise policy scam.

The SC ruling being cited here came on November 6, mandating for the first time that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) obtain prior sanction to prosecute public servants on money laundering charges.

What is the prior sanction provision?
Section 197 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure, 1973, (CrPc) bars courts from taking cognizance of offences alleged to have been committed by a judge, a magistrate, or a public servant who was "acting or purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty" while committing the alleged offence, unless prior or "previous" sanction has been given by the government. An identical requirement is found under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS).

This provision is meant to shield public servants from unnecessary prosecution. However, the explanation to the provision clarifies that "no sanction shall be required" when public servants are accused of certain crimes against women (such as rape, sexual harassment, stalking, and voyeurism), and other serious crimes such as human trafficking.

Several previous rulings on the provision have held that the provision does not extend

its protective cover to every act or omission of a public servant while in service. It applies only to those acts or omissions which are done by public servants while discharging their official duties.

For instance, in *Devinder Singh v. State of Punjab* (2016), the SC held that "protection of sanction is an assurance to an honest and sincere officer to perform his duty honestly and to the best of his ability to further public duty. However, authority cannot be camouflaged to commit crime."

What does the recent SC verdict say?

On November 6, the SC held that Section 197(1) of the CrPc will apply to alleged offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) too. A Bench comprising Justices A S Oka and Augustine

George Masih delivered the verdict in a case involving IAS officers Bibhu Prasad Acharya and Adityanath Das, both of whom are facing money laundering charges. The case also implicates former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

In a 18-page decision, the SC upheld an January 2019 order by the Telangana HC which set aside the trial court's order taking cognizance of the case. The challenge was on the ground that both of them were public servants and, therefore, it was necessary to obtain prior sanction under Section 197(1) of the CrPc before they could be prosecuted.

The SC noted that although there is no specific provision in the PMLA that states prior sanction is not required, it did not find "any provision therein which is inconsistent with the provisions of Section 197(1) of CrPc". The Bench referred to Section 65 of PMLA which makes the provisions of the CrPc applicable to all proceedings under the PMLA, unless they are inconsistent with the PMLA provisions.

The SC also recorded that the accused were public servants, and that there was a connection between their duties and alleged criminal acts, thus satisfying both conditions for requirement of prior sanction under CrPc section 197(1).

What can be the impact of the prior sanction requirement?

While complaints and the investigation under PMLA will hold, cognizance of chargesheets accusing public servants of money laundering purportedly while in discharge of their duty by the trial court can go away.

In effect, this can mean that an accused

public servant, even if convicted by the trial court, can argue during an appeal that the offences alleged were in discharge of their duty, and that the trial took place without obtaining prior sanction from the government. If this argument is accepted, it can result in the court setting aside the conviction.

In *P.K. Pradhan v. State of Sikkim* (2001), the SC held that the argument that prior sanction under Section 197 was not obtained can be raised by the accused at any time during a trial, or even after conviction. However, the accused public servant must establish that his alleged act was in the course of the performance of his official duty.

As the SC held in the *Bibhu Prasad Acharya* judgement, "there is no embargo on considering the plea of absence of sanction, after cognizance is taken by the Special Court of the offences punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA."

Prior Sanction Provision (Section 197 of CrPC):

- Courts cannot take cognizance of offences allegedly committed by judges, magistrates, or public servants acting in their official capacity unless prior sanction from the government is obtained.
- This provision is intended to protect public servants from unnecessary prosecution.
- It does not apply to serious crimes such as rape, sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, or human trafficking.

Recent SC Verdict :The Supreme Court ruled that Section 197(1) of the CrPC applies to alleged offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Other Relevant Acts (PCA):

Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) also mandates prior sanction for prosecuting public servants for offences such as bribery (Sections 7 and 11).

Section 19(1) of PCA requires prior government approval before courts can take cognizance of certain offences against public officials.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Governance(GSII)

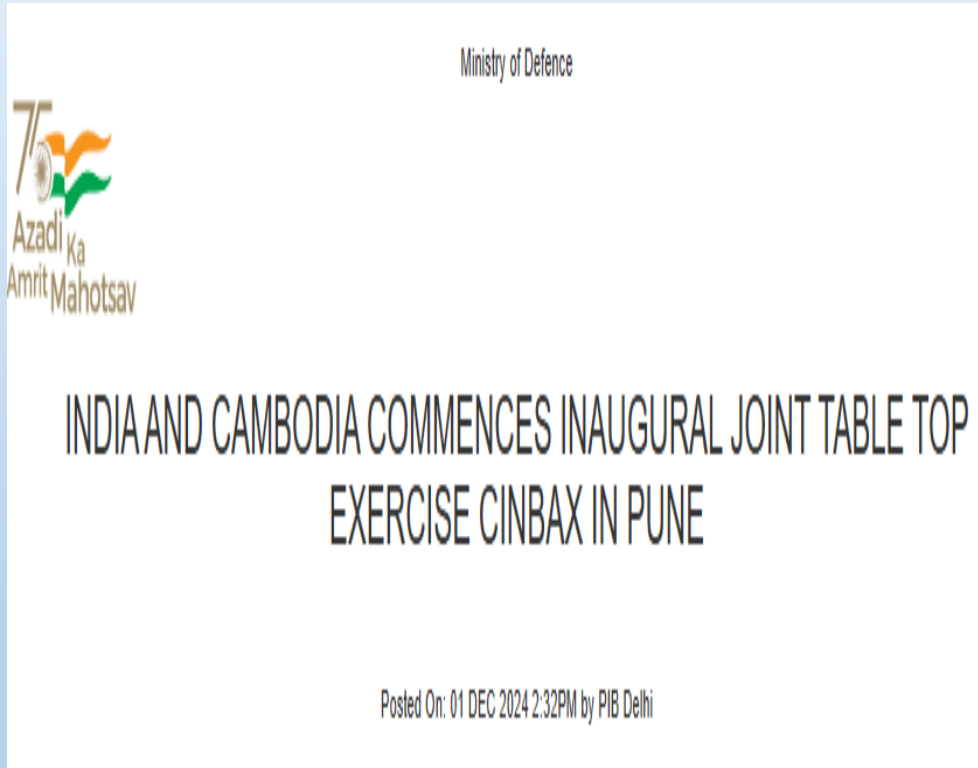


- 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police Held in Bhubaneswar on November 30 and December 1, 2024.
- Security Discussions: Wide-ranging discussions on national and international security challenges, including counter-terrorism, left-wing extremism, cyber-crime, economic security, immigration, coastal security, and narco-trafficking.
- Digital Threats: PM expressed concern over digital frauds, cyber-crimes, and AI technology, particularly deep fakes.
SMART Policing: PM expanded the mantra to include strategic, meticulous, adaptable, reliable, and transparent policing.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-IR(GSII)



- The 1st edition of Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX, between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army commenced at Foreign Training Node, Pune today. The exercise will be conducted from 1st to 8th December 2024. The Cambodian Army contingent will comprise 20 personnel and the Indian Army contingent is also comprising 20 personnel from an Infantry Brigade.
- Exercise CINBAX is a planning exercise aimed to wargame conduct of joint Counter Terrorism (CT) operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The exercise will focus on discussions pertaining to establishment of Joint Training Task Force for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance besides planning of operations in CT environment. Various contingencies will be war gamed and employment of force multipliers in the sub conventional operations will also be discussed. The exercise will also involve discussion on information operations, cyber warfare, hybrid warfare, logistics and casualty management, HADR operations etc.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB:Science and Tech-(GSIII)



- The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) is being held from December 4-6, 2024, in New Delhi, India. The conference is hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences, and will feature high-quality oral and poster presentations, panel discussions, and a training workshop focused on applying current satellite data for meteorological and climatological applications.
- The first AOMSUC was held in Beijing, China, in 2010. Since then, the conference has been hosted annually in various locations across Asia-Oceania. The AOMSUC has become a premier event for meteorologists, earth scientists, satellite operators, and students from across the region and the globe. The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference promises to be a valuable event for all those interested in the use of satellites for weather, climate, and environmental applications.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB:Defence-(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence



INDIAN ARMY AND SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES CONCLUDE JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE "AGNI WARRIOR - 2024"

Posted On: 30 NOV 2024 3:39PM by PIB Delhi

- The 13th edition of Joint Military Exercise AGNI WARRIOR (XAW-2024), a bilateral exercise between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces, concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra) on 30th November 2024. The three-day exercise conducted from 28th to 30th November 2024, witnessed participation by the Singapore Armed Forces contingent comprising 182 personnel from the Singapore Artillery and the Indian Army contingent comprising 114 personnel from the Regiment of Artillery.
- The aim of XAW-2024 was to maximise mutual understanding of drills and procedures to achieve jointness as a multinational force under the United Nations Charter. The exercise showcased joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery of both Armies.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Environment(GSIII)

India To Join 197 Nations At UNCCD COP16 In Riyadh



16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Dates: December 2-13, 2024

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Theme: "Our Land. Our Future."

Significance:

Marks the 30th anniversary of UNCCD

Largest UN land conference to date

First UNCCD COP held in the Middle East and North Africa region

Objectives:

Raise global ambition and accelerate action on land and drought resilience

Promote a people-centered approach

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Governance(GS2)

Centre Asks States And UTs To Make Snakebite Cases A Notifiable Disease



- The Union Health Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to make snakebite cases and deaths a 'Notifiable Disease' under the relevant provisions of the State Public Health Act or other applicable legislation. In a letter to the Principal Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary (Health) of all states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava emphasized that snakebites are a significant public health concern. She highlighted that snakebites can cause mortality, morbidity, and disability, particularly among farmers and tribal populations.
- Ms. Srivastava mentioned that the Ministry has launched the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming by 2030 (NAPSE), in consultation with relevant Ministries and stakeholders, aiming to halve snakebite-related deaths by 2030. She highlighted that one of the key objectives under NAPSE is to strengthen the surveillance of snakebite cases and deaths in India.