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DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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The difficult path to India-Pakistan peace

The failure to manage the domestic audience in Pakistan is a recurrent trope that has overwhelmed peace attempts



AMEYA PRATAP SINGH

After the unceremonious ouster of Imran Khan from the seat of government in Pakistan and the promulgation of Shehbaz Sharif as Prime Minister, there have been signs of a thaw in India-Pakistan relations. It was reported that the Pakistan Army chief, General Qamar Bajwa, had countenanced backchannel talks and a “limited trade resumption package” with India. This was to help alleviate some of the stresses on Pakistan’s flailing and cash-strapped domestic economy that was veering on the edge of a default in the face of a widening current account deficit and high inflation brought on by the after-effects of a global novel coronavirus pandemic, unprecedented floods, and decades of poor planning.

As a respite, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently agreed to a one-year extension for Pakistan’s 39-month, \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility programme begun in 2019, and further added an additional \$1.17 billion to its coffers. To ease its situation further, especially considering the devastating impact of the floods on food supply in Pakistan, Pakistan’s Finance Minister Miftah Ismail had indicated his openness to import “vegetables and edible items from India”. However, Mr. Sharif had to

quickly retract Mr. Ismail’s suggestion and restate his government’s commitment to prioritising a resolution of the Kashmir dispute before normalisation of bilateral relations could take place. There has been no official confirmation of India’s proposal to provide food aid to Pakistan, nor of any Pakistani request for the same.

Domestic pressures

It is abundantly clear that Mr. Sharif, despite the obvious economic benefit of seeking trade in essential commodities with India, is unable to overcome the pressures of domestic public opinion in Pakistan. His predecessor’s controversial and unpopular departure via a vote of no-confidence and upcoming general elections in Pakistan has swayed Mr. Sharif’s decision-making. Mr. Khan’s party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, won a convincing victory in the hugely important Punjab by-polls earlier this year. Meanwhile, the stock of the Sharif-led coalition is sinking as he has been forced to introduce austerity measures and rollback public subsidies to meet the IMF’s demands.

A simple application of rational choice theory would suggest that Mr. Sharif’s choice is fairly straightforward. Pakistan should ask India, a large agricultural producer in the neighbourhood, to provide it essential aid in its moment of crisis. India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi had even tweeted that he was “saddened to see the devastation caused by the floods in Pakistan”. This suggests an implicit willingness to provide



REUTERS

food aid if required. It is worth noting that India provided essential vaccine supplies to Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic and there is precedence for cooperation between the two nations when faced with such emergencies. But still, Mr. Sharif could not muster the political will to serve Pakistan’s short-term interests, despite the fact that such trade would not create long-term dependencies on India, or require extreme concessions, or entail a compromise of principles.

Leader equations

This episode sheds light on the enduring nature of India-Pakistan relations. Due to the deep securitisation of the Kashmir dispute in Pakistan’s social imaginary, it is quite challenging for Pakistan’s leadership to sustain any sort of peacemaking with India, even if strong material incentives are present. It is known that the electoral costs of such an undertaking would be suicidal, making Pakistani peacemakers susceptible to popular backlash.

In my research on conflict termination, I have found that the

personal reputations of leaders as well as moments of weakness can be useful to trust-building processes between rivals. Mr. Sharif and Mr. Modi have reputations that are conducive. Mr. Modi, as former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee’s successor, was seen by Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif’s brother and former Pakistani Prime Minister, as a populist leader capable of countenancing an Indian compromise on the Kashmir dispute. It is likely that this view still holds sway.

Similarly, the Modi government in India has long seen the Sharif regime in Pakistan as supportive of stability in bilateral ties. Mr. Modi had even made a surprise visit to Lahore in 2015 to meet Nawaz Sharif and demonstrate his sincerity in resolving pending disputes. Pakistan’s weakness and need for food aid is also apparent in the given circumstances. India too would like to refocus its overstretched defence capacities on handling China. Still, a breakthrough remains elusive.

In the 1950s

This was also the case in 1953 when Mohammed Ali Bogra and Jawaharlal Nehru negotiated the Kashmir dispute. Bogra was a Bengali and desirably seen in New Delhi as lacking Punjabi sentimentality on Kashmir. Nehru on the other hand was considered a strong, popular, and secular leader who was able to withstand the cross-currents of public opinion in India. Then too, Pakistan faced economic distress. Bogra and Nehru made reciprocal visits to New Del-

hi and Karachi. They got close to an agreed solution on Kashmir, but each time, Bogra’s inability to foster domestic coalitions to support the peacemaking process with India overrode the negotiations. The ire of domestic publics against Bogra as well as the disapproval of his cabinet colleagues were insurmountable. Such failure to manage domestic audience costs in Pakistan and insulate the peace process from spoilers has been a recurrent trope and has derailed several India-Pakistan peace dialogues.

In the circumstances, much will depend on the outcome of the next general elections in Pakistan and the choice of Gen. Bajwa’s successor. If the Sharif-led coalition government returns to power and a similar-minded army chief is appointed, there may indeed be renewed opening for a sustained backchannel dialogue and trade. However, these talks too are likely to remain unfruitful until there is bipartisan support in Pakistan on the need to normalise ties with India and the two states enter a long period of de-securitisation. This may be too much to ask for. But, without it, the price of peace with India will be too high for Pakistan’s leaders. As long as the option of peace (or in this case, trade) forces Pakistan’s leaders to choose between their survival as political agents and the larger interests of the state, the answer is likely to disappoint.

Ameya Pratap Singh is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford and Managing Editor at Statecraft Daily

Pacts on water, power, defence likely as Hasina arrives in Delhi

Bangladesh PM expects India's help in the repatriation process of Rohingya

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh are expected to sign at least seven agreements on Tuesday covering diverse areas such as water sharing, connectivity, defence and trade, *The Hindu* has learnt. The agreements will be sealed following official-level talks that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Ms. Hasina arrived here on Monday afternoon and was welcomed by Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Vikram Doraiswamy and Minister of State for Railways and Textiles Darshana Jardosh.

Ms. Hasina prayed at the shrine of the Sufi saint Nizamuddin here and later, in the evening, she met with senior diplomats, journalists and professionals at an interaction organised by the Bangladesh High Commission.

Speaking to journalists at a reception at the Bangladesh High Commission on Monday, Ms. Hasina confirmed that she would raise two contentious issues on the river water agreements and Rohingya refugees during her talks with Mr. Modi.



Warm welcome: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after arriving in New Delhi on Monday. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

“India is a very big country, and can do a lot for the Rohingya, especially in helping their repatriation back,” Ms. Hasina said in response to a question from *The Hindu* on what she hoped from India. While the Bangladesh Prime Minister declined to speak about the long-pending Teesta agreement in particular, she said the two countries could cooperate in a number of ways, and suggested that India consider a Line of Credit for dredging and desilting river beds to prevent flooding, as well as to regenerate and revive streams.

‘Fast growing economy’
“Bangladesh is now considered as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The proportion of our

population living below the poverty line has fallen from 31% to nearly 20.5%,” said High Commissioner Mohammed Imran.

Among the agreements that are being planned for Tuesday is the one on the Kushiara river near Assam. The Joint River Commission Meeting on August 25 had finalised the text of the Kushiara river agreement. It also had agreed to expand cooperation to areas such as reduction of pollution in the cross-border rivers. India has been sharing real-time flood data with Bangladesh, the period of which has now been further extended.

Sources informed that both sides have started moving on defence-related agreements, including portable

and prefabricated bridges that increase mobility for the armed forces.

A major focus is also on the power sector. Bangladesh is buying 1,160 MW of power from India and this is expected to go up in the coming period.

Chittagong Hill Tracts

The Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh should be declared a “region of peace”, a coalition of Chakma community organisations has said. The call for the zone of peace in the Chittagong hills came a little after Ms. Hasina arrived in Delhi.

“Though the Chittagong Hill Tracts [CHT] Accord was signed on December 2, 1997, key provisions of the accord, especially handing over of law and order and supervision of the three Hill District Councils of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati to the CHT Regional Council, withdrawal of the Bangladesh Army camps established within the CHT, remain unimplemented 25 years after signing of the accord,” said Rashik Mohan Chakma, president of the Chakma National Council of India, Mizoram in a statement.

‘Sri Lanka won’t accept external processes on war accountability’

We want to work towards consensus with all partners: Sabry

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Ahead of the UN Human Rights Chief’s latest report on Sri Lanka, and a likely resolution at the coming session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Sri Lankan government reiterated that it would not accept any external mechanism on war-time accountability.

Addressing a media conference in Colombo on Monday, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry said Sri Lanka “needs all partners” for its economic recovery, days after the government formalised an IMF staff-level agreement for a provisional \$ 2.9 billion programme.

However, rejecting any external mechanism – as the former Rajapaksa administration too did – for accountability and justice in regard to alleged war crimes, Mr. Sabry vowed to strengthen domestic processes “within

Sri Lanka’s constitutional framework.” “We are not interested in confrontation, we want to work towards consensus with all partners,” he said, adding the government would set up a new “truth-seeking” mechanism and a secretariat to coordinate with Sri Lankan diaspora. “But external mechanism, we are not agreeable... because our Constitution does not allow that,” the Minister said, without elaborating on the constitutional provisions that prohibit it.

Tamils call for justice

For over 13 years since Sri Lanka’s civil war ended, concerns over grave human rights violations have lingered among Tamils. Last month, hundreds of Tamil mothers marched on the streets of the northern Kili-nochchi district, marking 2,000 days of their agitation, seeking truth and justice for

their loved ones who disappeared during and after the civil war.

Further, in recent years, rights advocates within Sri Lanka as well as UN experts have drawn attention to targeted attacks on the island nation’s Muslim community, arrests under anti-terrorism laws to “stifle” dissent, persisting militarisation, and a shrinking space for human rights and democratic freedoms.

As part of its efforts to address long-pending concerns, the government is likely to pass an amendment Bill to trim the President’s executive powers soon, the Minister said, even as critics accuse the ruling administration of pushing a “watered down” version of an old law. “Sri Lanka must use this crisis as an opportunity to reset the country... economically, socially and constitutionally,” he said.

'Teesta delay holding up Hilsa fish supply to India'

Hasina playfully chides Indian govt.

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Playfully chiding the Indian government for failing to deliver on the Teesta water sharing agreement, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday said the treaty, held up since 2011 due to differences between the Centre and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, was also holding up Hilsa fish supplies to India.

"You [India] aren't giving us enough water, so I can't give you Hilsa fish right now. But I promise I will be able to supply Hilsa by the upcoming Puja season [in October]," she said, laughing, during a diplomatic reception in Delhi, in a reference to the lower water flows in the Teesta and other rivers.

India and Bangladesh are expected to sign some agreements on joint management of rivers on Tuesday, and discuss a number of ways to cooperate on water sharing.

In an indicator of how important the issue is on the bilateral agenda, the Bangladesh High Commission, which hosted the special reception for Ministers, diplomats and military officers in Delhi, had named each of the tables at the dinner after a Bangladeshi river, including Teesta, Megna, Padma,

Khowai and Kushiyara.

When asked about whether she would meet Ms. Banerjee during the visit to New Delhi (September 5-8), Ms. Hasina said she wanted to meet the West Bengal Chief Minister, like on her previous visits, but learned that Ms. Banerjee had not come to Delhi.

"Mamata is like my sister, and we can meet anytime. Some ties are personal, beyond politics, like my relations with the Gandhis," Ms. Hasina told journalists, in a reference to Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Ms. Hasina spoke emotionally about her visit upon arrival to the Nizamuddin Sufi shrine on Monday.

She explained that she had first visited the Dargah, that dates back to 1325 AD, on April 9, 1981, while she lived in exile in Delhi after her father's assassination.

"I had an unusual feeling about the visit, it was a very spiritual place. I then went and read my father's [Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's] diary and realised he had visited the Nizamuddin dargah on the same day on April 9, in 1946," Ms. Hasina said.

On Thursday, the Bangladesh Prime Minister will visit the Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Rajasthan.

Truss inherits an economy that is headed for recession

Inflation is at a 40-year high, driven by energy, food prices

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

New U.K. Prime Minister Liz Truss inherits an economy set to enter recession before the end of the year, with double-digit inflation forecast to soar further.

With inflation at a 40-year high above 10%, fuelled by rocketing energy and food prices, Ms. Truss promised during her campaign to cut taxes.

Ms. Truss pledged also to reverse a recent increase in workers' National Insurance contributions that fund the public health service and welfare payments.

She is also proposing to axe taxes on fuel that pay for the transition to cleaner energy but she has rejected "sticking plaster" solutions to the cost-of-living crisis, such as government aid.



Liz Truss has proposed to axe taxes on fuel that pay for the transition to cleaner energy ■ ISTOCK

An emergency budget is expected within weeks, as the Bank of England (BoE) predicts that the U.K. will enter a year-long recession by the end of 2022.

Before then, Ms. Truss is expected to present a plan to tackle soaring energy bills.

British households are facing an eye-watering 80-percent average hike in electricity and gas bills from

next month, in a dramatic worsening of the cost-of-living crisis before winter.

"Some of the promises Liz Truss has scattered on the campaign trail may flutter away once she takes office and the cold reality of the monumental crisis the government faces becomes clear," noted Susannah Streeter, senior investment and markets analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Ms. Truss, 47, has backed the U.K.'s ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and favours all-out investment in energy, including controversial fracking technology where it is backed by locals. She also wants more energy to come from the North Sea and backs current policy on investment in nuclear power and renewables.

Truss wins Conservative race to be U.K.'s next PM

She beats Indian-origin Rishi Sunak for the top post

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

Announcing the results of the intra-party contest for the leadership of the party and the job at No. 10 Downing Street, the U.K.'s Conservative party said that British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss would be the country's next Prime Minister and the leader of the party. Ms. Truss won a vote share of 57% or 81,326 votes versus former Chancellor Rishi Sunak's 42% or 60,399 votes with 82% of Conservative members voting.

With Monday's announcement, Ms. Truss is set to become Britain's 56th Prime Minister and the third woman to hold the position. She will travel to Balmoral Castle, Scotland, on Tuesday, where she will be invited by Queen Elizabeth II to form a new government.

In her victory speech at the Conservative gathering at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London, Ms. Truss thanked the Conservative Party functionaries for the "longest job interview in history" – the contest began in July after the resignation of several Ministers in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Cabinet, including Mr. Sunak.

The incoming Prime Minister thanked Mr. Sunak as well as – in hyperbolic terms



Level up: Liz Truss will be Britain's 56th Prime Minister and the third woman to hold the position. ■ GETTY IMAGES

– Mr. Johnson, in whose Cabinet she remained – a factor that possibly contributed to her popularity against Mr. Sunak.

Words for Boris

"Boris, you got Brexit done, you crushed [former Labour Party leader] Jeremy Corbyn, you rolled out the vaccine, and you stood up to Vladimir Putin. You are admired from Kyiv to Carlisle," she said.

Ms. Truss will inherit a burgeoning list of problems on Tuesday. The U.K. is grappling with soaring inflation – the kind it has not seen in some four decades (currently above 10%), a looming recession, energy bills that could send many Britons into fuel poverty and an ongoing war in Europe between

Russia and Ukraine.

"I campaigned as a Conservative and I will govern as a Conservative," Ms. Truss said, as she promised to cut taxes, deliver growth, improve the National Health Service (NHS) and deal with the energy bill crisis. She had said over the weekend that within a week of entering No. 10, she would deliver a plan to immediately address energy prices and a longer-term energy supply strategy.

Whether to cut taxes or focus first on inflation became central to the debate between Ms. Truss and Mr. Sunak, a 42-year-old Indian-origin businessman-turned-politician.

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Truss wins Conservative race to be U.K.'s next PM

Borrowing to finance tax cuts was not the Conservative way, Mr. Sunak had argued.

While he did not speak at the auditorium, he sent out a tweet in which he thanked everyone who voted for him and said that it was time to unite behind the new Prime Minister “as she steers the country through difficult times.”

“I’ve said throughout that the Conservatives are one family, “ he wrote. Shortly after the news of her victory broke, Prime Minister Modi congratulated Ms. Truss.

“Confident that under your leadership, the India-U.K. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership will be further strengthened. Wish you the very best for your new role and responsibilities,” he said on Twitter.

India and the U.K. - which have about GBP 25.7 billion (\$29.6 billion) in bilateral trade - are currently negotiating a free-trade agreement under a comprehensive multi-dimensional plan to deepen ties, called the ‘2030 U.K.-India Roadmap’, launched last year. The U.K. had also announced an “Indo-Pacific tilt” in its March 2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defence and Development Policy.

India has overtaken the U.K. according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections, to become the fifth-largest economy in the world. Speaking at an event on Monday, Mr. Modi had said the “pleasure of surpassing” India’s former imperial ruler superseded the “mere statistics” of an improved ranking.

Preventive detentions rose in 2021

Number of people in custody or detained at the end of year highest since 2017

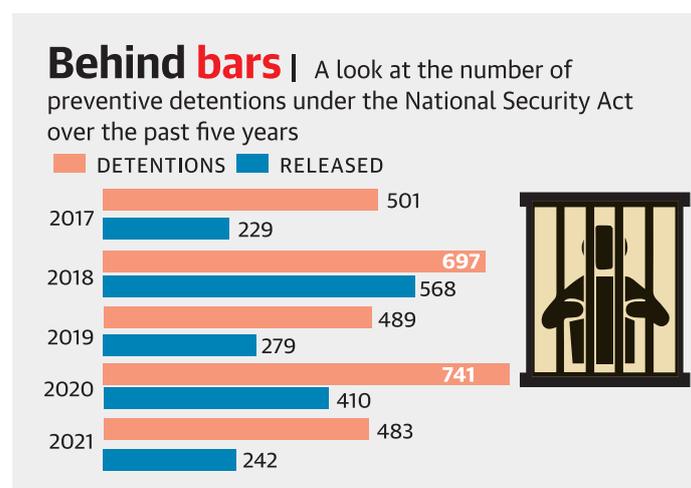
ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Preventive detentions in 2021 saw a rise by over 23.7% compared with the year before, with over 1.1 lakh people being placed under preventive detention, according to statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) last month.

Of these, 483 were detentions under the National Security Act, of which almost half (241) were either in custody or still detained as of 2021-end. Over 24,500 people placed under preventive detention were either in custody or still detained as of 2021-end – the highest since 2017 when the NCRB started recording this data.

In 2017, the NCRB's *Crime in India* report found that 67,084 persons had been detained as a preventive measure that year. Of these, 48,815 were released between one and six months of their detention and 18,269 were either in custody or still in preventive detention as of the end of the year.

The number of persons



placed under detention has been increasing since 2017 – to over 98,700 in 2018 and over 1.06 lakh in 2019 – before dipping to 89,405 in 2020. Data pertaining to 2021 showed that 1,10,683 persons were placed under preventive detention last year, of which 24,525 were either in custody or still detained as of the end of the year and the rest were let go within one to six months.

While the number of persons placed under preventive detention has seen an increase in 2021, the NCRB

data showed that the number of people arrested in such a manner under the National Security Act had dipped significantly compared with the year before.

Preventive detentions under the NSA increased to 741 in 2020. This number dropped to 483 in 2021.

Use of provision

Among other laws under which the NCRB has recorded data on preventive detentions are the Goonda Act (State and Central) (29,306), Prevention of Illicit Traffic in

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 (1,331), and a category classified as “Other Detention Acts”, under which most of the detentions were registered (79,514). Since 2017, the highest number of persons to be placed under preventive detention has consistently been under the “Other Detention Acts” category.

Shwetank Sailakwal, advocate-on-record, who has researched preventive detention laws and procedures in India, pointed out that several laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act also provide for making preventive detentions.

According to Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the police are empowered to make preventive arrests if they believe they must do so to prevent the commission of “any cognisable offence”. This detention can be extended beyond 24 hours if required “under any other provisions of this Code or of any other law”.

SC asks if hijab can be allowed in school

Court to take up issue tomorrow

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked whether a student can exercise her private religious right to wear a hijab in a school which adheres to a dress code.

“You may have a right to wear a hijab, but can you wear that right to school,” a Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia formulated the substantial question of law on a batch of petitions filed by students from Karnataka who were prohibited entry into their classrooms for wearing hijab.

They have challenged a Karnataka High Court decision that wearing a hijab is not an essential practice of Islam. “The practice may be essential or it may not be essential. The question here is whether in a government institution, you can insist on carrying on your religious practice... because the Preamble to the Constitution states we are a secular country,” Justice Gupta observed orally.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhawan, for one of the students, said the students did not defy the dress code. They just wanted to wear a hijab in addition to their uniform. “Yes, there is a dress code. But can’t I wear a hijab in addition to the dress code? There are a large number of women, in India



and elsewhere, who choose to wear hijab. Does the dress code yield to them or do they yield to the dress code?” Mr. Dhawan asked.

He said the restriction on hijab extend to private institutions also. “I have seen in this court judges wearing tilak on their foreheads and insignia of Vaishnavism... I have seen in court too the portrait of a judge wearing a *pagdi*...” Mr. Dhawan argued.

“Wearing a *pagdi* was usual in royal States...” Justice Gupta said.

“A uniform must be uniform,” Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia said.

“But can’t the uniform be worn in a manner consistent with an individual’s choice of her belief and morality... Can a government put students to the pain of banning them from their classrooms, which is like capital punishment for students, just because they are extra clad,” senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, also for the students, argued.

The court adjourned the case to Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Hemant Soren wins trust vote, BJP MLAs walk out of House

Opposition says Jharkhand CM moved the motion to escape from grave charges

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in Jharkhand led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday won the trust vote in the 81-member Assembly, with 48 members voting in support of the ruling coalition. The Opposition staged a walkout.

It was for the first time that a ruling coalition government in Jharkhand had moved a confidence motion to prove its majority in the House.

With Mr. Soren winning the trust vote, the political stalemate that had prevailed in Jharkhand appears to have drawn to a close.

During the debate over the confidence motion, the Chief Minister slammed the BJP, saying, "It [the BJP] only does power politics and Hindu-Muslim politics, but I am the son of Shibu Soren and I will not be cowed down."

"The BJP is a party of businessmen, and they were trying to buy our MLAs, threatened the ruling party legislators, but could not succeed," he noted. "People purchase commodities in the market, but the BJP buys legislators."

"In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the BJP will be wiped out as the people of



Litmus test: Chief Minister Hemant Soren and MLAs belonging to the ruling United Progressive Alliance after winning the floor test in the Assembly in Ranchi on Monday. ■PTI

the country will give them a befitting reply," Mr. Soren said.

Opposition protest

The MLAs of the BJP and the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU), along with two Independent legislators, walked out of the House during the voting but participated in the debate over the confidence motion. They trooped into the Well, prot-

esting against the motion.

"It is to escape from the grave charges made against him that Chief Minister Hemant Soren had brought in the confidence motion in the House," AJSU president Sushesh Mahto told presspersons.

"There have been incidents of rape, murder and loot in the State but the ruling party MLAs were busy enjoying a luxurious life in a

resort. They have brought the confidence motion out of fear and nothing else," BJP MLA Neelkanth Singh Munda said.

On Sunday evening, over 31 UPA MLAs, who were staying at a resort in Raipur in Chhattisgarh since August 30, returned to Ranchi to vote in favour of the confidence motion.

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Soren wins trust vote in Jharkhand Assembly

They were lodged at the Ranchi Circuit House and brought to the State Assembly on Monday in a bus.

Amid fear of poaching by the BJP, UPA MLAs on August 27 had stayed at the guest house near Latratu Dam in Khunti district for the day.

The Speaker, Rabindra Nath Mahto, later announced that 48 members had voted for the ruling UPA government and subsequently adjourned the House *sine die*.

Days of uncertainty

The suspense over Mr. Soren's disqualification from the State Assembly started on February 10 this year, when former CM Raghuvar Das raised a complaint with

Governor Ramesh Bais. The very next day, the BJP demanded Mr. Soren's disqualification for securing the lease of a stone mine in his name while being the State's Minister for Mines in 2021.

The Governor later forwarded the BJP's complaint to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for action.

On August 25, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey told journalists that the ECI had sent a notice on the office-of-profit case to the Governor, stating that Mr. Soren's membership would be disqualified. A few UPA MLAs later met the Governor to submit a memo, seeking to clear the air on the issue. Mr. Bais promised to clarify but left for Delhi instead.



Preventive measures: The high forex reserves is among the steps taken to safeguard the banking system, says Das. ■ AFP

‘Banks healthy enough to brave foreign headwinds’

Das cites steps taken by RBI, Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The banking system is healthy enough to withstand any negative spillovers from external headwinds emanating from the Jackson Hole speech by the U.S. Federal Reserve chairman, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday.

Addressing the annual gathering of the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (Fimmda), Mr. Das said, the central bank and government had taken enough measures, such as maintaining high forex reserves (\$561 billion as of August 26) and other steps to keep the banking system healthy enough to withstand external headwinds.

‘Markets very volatile’

Since the Jackson Hole summit last week, markets worldwide had become extremely volatile and uncertain with highly destabilising effects on emerging markets, Mr. Das said but pointed out that the aforementioned measures had ensured that the health of the banking system was sound enough to weather any negative spillovers from external headwinds.

The Reserve Bank of India Governor also forecast

better days on the inflation front, saying he expected the consumer price index to cool off from the second half and moderate further from the fourth quarter.

‘Close watch on rupee’

On the rupee, which has weathered the storm since the U.S. started raising rates and has been one of the best performing emerging market units, he assured that the central bank was there in the market every day so as to prevent excess volatility in the rupee and also to anchor expectations around its depreciation.

“Avoiding undue and excessive volatility is a desirable policy objective for all stakeholders, while reaping the benefits of a market determined exchange rate regime,” he said.

On monetary policy, he said going forward the policy would be watchful, nimble-footed and calibrated.

Mr. Das said the RBI’s regulatory model was to adapt to the fast-changing market conditions and one such response had been to introduce G-Secs with 2, 5, 10, 13, 14, 30 and 40-year tenors.

The RBI Governor also said the central bank and the government were working on issuing sovereign green bonds.

Services PMI flags rebound in August

Business sentiment in India recovers to best level since May 2018, S&P Global's sectoral survey shows

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The services sector rebounded in August from a four-month low in July and created the most jobs in 14 years as input cost pressures eased to the slowest pace in 11 months, as per S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which expanded to 57.2 last month, from July's 55.5.

While overall new orders increased for services firms sharply from July, transport, information and communication reported a faster spurt in new business as well as output, with finance and insurance outperforming all other sub-sectors.

August's higher growth accompanied by decelerating input costs, lifted sentiment among services firms sur-



Adding jobs: Private sector jobs expanded the most in more than 14 years driven by the service economy. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

veyed by S&P Global, as they revised upwards their forecasts for output levels a year from now, taking overall optimism to the highest level seen since May 2018.

In July, the PMI survey had indicated that only 5% of companies expected output

growth in the year ahead, compared with 9% in June, when the index had hit an 11-year high of 59.2.

While consumer services faced the highest input cost inflation, transport, information and communication services recorded the fastest

rise in selling prices, said Ms. Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

"With demand showing considerable resilience, service providers maintained a degree of pricing power and lifted selling prices amid the transfer of cost increases to customers," she noted, adding that the rate at which service providers passed on higher charges to customers was broadly similar to July.

Compelled to increase prices to protect their margins from cost pressures, firms lifted selling prices with some signalling that their price revisions were backed by 'accommodative demand conditions', with buyers willing to pay more.

Outstanding business volumes rose at the fastest pace

in 18 months in August, taking the sequence of accumulation to eight months.

Composite index climbs

With the manufacturing PMI reflecting strong growth in new orders and output, the Composite PMI Output Index rose to 58.2 from 56.6. The rate of inflation faced by manufacturing and services firms combined, hit a 19-month low.

"New work intakes increased at quicker rates in the manufacturing and service sectors, leading to the fastest upturn at the composite level for nine months. Indian private sector jobs expanded to the greatest extent in over 14 years... driven by a substantial acceleration in growth across the service economy," S&P Global said.

Rajpath to be renamed Kartavya Path

Modi to inaugurate Central Vista Avenue on September 8

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rajpath is likely to be renamed Kartavya Path ahead of its opening on Thursday after 20 months of redevelopment, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry officials said on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the redeveloped Central Vista

Avenue, which has been closed to the public since January 2021, on September 8, the officials said.

While some portions of the avenue would be opened after the inauguration ceremony on Thursday evening, the entire stretch from India Gate to the Rashtrapati Bhavan was likely to be opened to the public on Friday, the

officials added. According to sources, the two-km stretch that was known as Kingsway before Independence would be renamed by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) as Kartavya (duty) Path.

An NDMC source said that a Council meeting is yet to be scheduled but is likely to be held on Wednesday.

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.