

Karnataka HC upholds nod for probe against CM

POLITY & GOVERNANCE



The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday upheld the permission granted by the Governor to conduct an investigation against Mr. Siddaramaiah on the allegation of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites worth ₹ 56 Cr. to his wife Parvathi by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The court ordered a probe vacating its interim order granted on August 19 directing a Special Court in Bengaluru to defer the decision on the complaints against Mr. Siddaramaiah. The Court also rejected a plea to stay Tuesday's verdict to enable Mr. Siddaramaiah to

appeal against it.

Mr. Siddaramaiah challenged the legality of the Governor's August 16 order granting approval for investigation under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988. Mr. Siddaramaiah argued that the approval for investigation has to be taken only by the police officer and not by any private individuals.

The court upheld the power of the Governor to take independent decision in exceptional circumstances, although noting that the Governor is constitutionally bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers as per Article 163 of the Constitution.

Section 17A nowhere requires a police officer to seek approval in a private complaint registered under Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure/Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, against a public servant for offences punishable under the provisions of the Act. It is the duty of the complainant to seek such approval" in case of a private complaint lodged before the competent courts.

'Not mandatory'

The court clarified that providing a hearing or issuing a show-cause notice before granting approval for investigation under Section 17A as not mandatory and discretion of the competent authority, the Governor. Additionally, the court emphasized that the Governor's order pertains only to the approval for investigation under Section 17A and does not extend to sanction for prosecution under Section 218 of the BNSS, as clarified by the Governor's representatives.



"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."

—Benjamin Franklin

Zelenskyy meets Modi in U.S.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday, before departing New York for New Delhi.

The two leaders last met in Kyiv on August 23 when Mr. Modi made a short visit to Ukraine. During Monday's interaction — their third in three months— they discussed the Russia-Ukraine war and the Ukraine-India bilateral relationship. Government officials were circumspect on Mr. Modi's afternoon schedule following his address at the UN's Summit of the Future, prior to the

announcement that the meeting had taken place.

During the meeting, special attention was paid to strengthening interaction on international platforms, particularly within the UN and G20, as well as implementing the Peace Formula and preparing for the second Peace Summit. Both countries discussed about issues, such as enhancing trade and economic ties, defence cooperation, India's involvement in post-war reconstruction, and collaboration in education, science, and culture.

SC considers pleas on sub-quota classification

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

A seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud examined a series of petitions seeking a review of its August 1 majority judgment declaring that States have the right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential List in order to provide them more preferential treatment in public employment and education.

The lead opinion of the Chief Justice and Justice Manoj Misra granting constitutionally permissibility for States to sub-classify groups among Scheduled Castes was backed by four other judges. Justice B.R. Gavai had observed that it was the duty of a State to give preferential treatment to the backward class of citizens who were not adequately represented.

Justice Bela Trivedi had remained the lone dissenter on the Bench, saying States did not have the power to tinker with the Presidential List of Scheduled Castes. The review petitions filed later on in August supported the conclusions of Justice Trivedi. They had argued that the President had the exclusive powers to identify the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The review petitioners also did not agree with the opinions of four judges on the Bench to introduce the creamy layer principle in reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Parliament enjoys the exclusive power to include in or exclude any community that has advanced or ceased to be a part of Scheduled Castes or Tribes from the 1950 Order. The Indra Sawhney judgment did not deal with the sub-division or sub-classification of SC/ST and it remains limited to the Other Backward Classes

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Global leaders adopt UNSC reform document

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Redrawing lines: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during a special briefing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S.

India expressed satisfaction over historic adoption of a UN summit document - "Pact of the Future", containing a detailed paragraph on Security Council reform. India expects the beginning of text-based negotiations in a fixed time frame to reform the 15-nation body.

On September 22, global leaders consensually adopted the "Pact of the Future", that promised to "reform the Security Council, recognising the urgent need to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable".

In the "Pact of the Future", world leaders agreed to redress the historical injustice against Africa as a priority and, while treating Africa as a special case, improve the representation of the under-represented and unrepresented regions and groups including Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. The "Pact of the Future" agreed to "enlarge" the Security Council to be more representative of the United Nations membership and reflective of the realities of the contemporary world.

Centre to launch new project on urban poverty alleviation

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation will soon launch a programme dedicated to urban poverty alleviation. The pilot project, spanning three months will be launched in 25 cities including industrial hubs, migrant centres, aspirational districts and port cities across the country on October 1, with a preparatory phase of one month to ensure effective implementation, will utilise a Test-Learn-Scale approach.

The programme is designed to uplift vulnerable groups within the informal sector, including construction workers, gig workers, waste workers, care workers, domestic workers, and transportation workers, who often face occupational, social, and residential vulnerabilities. The pilot aims to break the cycle of poverty by providing financial assistance, social protection, and access to credit for micro-enterprises through strategic interventions and a collaborative approach.



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Army to receive Apache choppers in Dec

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



The Army is set to receive the first batch of three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from Boeing in December. The Apaches are ideal for countering armour and would be deployed in the deserts. India signed a deal with Boeing for six Apaches, for the Army, at a cost of around \$ 800 million in February 2020.

In March, the Army Aviation formally raised the 451 Aviation Squadron at Jodhpur that would operate the Apaches. The Apaches would be the second attack helicopters in the Army after the indigenous LCH the first squadron, operated by 351 Army Aviation, was moved to Missamari, Assam in the Eastern sector near the Line of Actual Control in November 2022. The Army is set to deploy the indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., in Ladakh next year.

Dissanayake picks MP Harini Amarasuriya as PM

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



President Anura Kumara Dissanayake appointed MP and former academic Harini Amarasuriya as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister. Ms. Amarasuriya, 54, is Sri Lanka's third woman Prime Minister, after Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her daughter Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. A four-member Cabinet under President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will lead policy until the parliamentary elections scheduled on November 14. The Parliament of Sri Lanka has been dissolved.

President Dissanayake holds several key portfolios, including Defence, Finance, Energy, Agriculture and Fisheries. Prime Minister Amarasuriya will helm Ministries, including Justice, Education, Health, and Trade. MP Vijitha Herath will handle Foreign Affairs, among other Ministries.

Third woman PM

The newly elected President and his small team, including the Prime Minister, that has just assumed charge, face huge challenges, as the country grapples with the impact of the 2022 economic crisis, and citizens struggle to cope with painful austerity measures that came as part of an International Monetary Fund-led programme.

“Doing nothing is very hard to do. You never know when you’re finished.”—Leslie Nielsen

Israel seeks 10,000 more skilled construction workers from India

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Israel is conducting an eight-day recruitment drive at the Industrial Training Institute in Aundh, Pune, seeking up to 10,000 skilled Indian workers. This effort, organized by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, follows an earlier recruitment phase held in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana earlier this year.

Approximately 4,800 Indian workers have so far been deployed to Israel. An additional 1,500 workers from the first cohort has been deployed in Israel on September 18, bringing the total number of skilled Indian professionals in Israel to over 5,000. Israeli employers had expanded their recruitment targets, seeking an

additional 10,000 candidates in this round.

The focus remains on four critical areas of expertise — framework, iron bending, plastering, and ceramic tiling. The recruitment is aimed at fulfilling Israel's growing demand for skilled construction workers while offering Indian workers international career opportunities. This recruitment drive is a result of a government-to-government (G2G) agreement signed between India and Israel in November 2023. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is responsible for preparing candidates for the technical and professional challenges they will face in Israel. This recruitment drive is being perceived as one which positions India as a global supplier of skilled human resources in international markets.

Indian Railways to overhaul ageing signalling systems for better safety

POLITY & GOVERNANCE



Safe journey: The Railways aims at improving the reliability and maintainability of the signalling systems.

The Indian Railways has decided to replace signal assets that have outlived their useful life. The Railway Ministry in a directive to the General Managers of all Zonal Railways emphasised the urgent need to prioritise the replacement of signal assets nearing or surpassing their useful life.

The critical work would be carried out independently, without impacting the ongoing infrastructure projects, including track doubling

and the construction of third or fourth lines. The Railways rolling out a “Plan for Reliability Improvement and Maintenance Effectiveness (PRIME)” aims at improving the reliability and maintainability of the signalling systems, which were vital for safe train operations. The plan underscores the need for regular staff training and counselling on safety and maintenance protocols to ensure high standards of work quality.

A key issue highlighted by the Ministry is the frequent occurrence of cable cuts along railway tracks, which had led to multiple signalling failures. These disruptions not only hampered train operations but posed serious safety risks, potentially resulting in catastrophic accidents.

Recent train collisions

The renewed focus on safety came in the wake of several major train accidents over the past two years, including the tragic triple train collision in Odisha’s Balasore district on June 2, 2023, which claimed 291 lives and left over 900 injured. Faulty signals were suspected to have led to the devastating accident. Two major rear-end collisions, one in the Waltair Division of East Coast Railway and the other in the Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, in the past one year, lapses in managing train operations in automatic signalling territory were cited as reasons for the accidents.

To address these issues, the Railways instructed training centres to provide special focus on acquainting and training of staff of all departments concerned on new systems that are coming up.

Unemployment rate has not fallen: labour survey

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

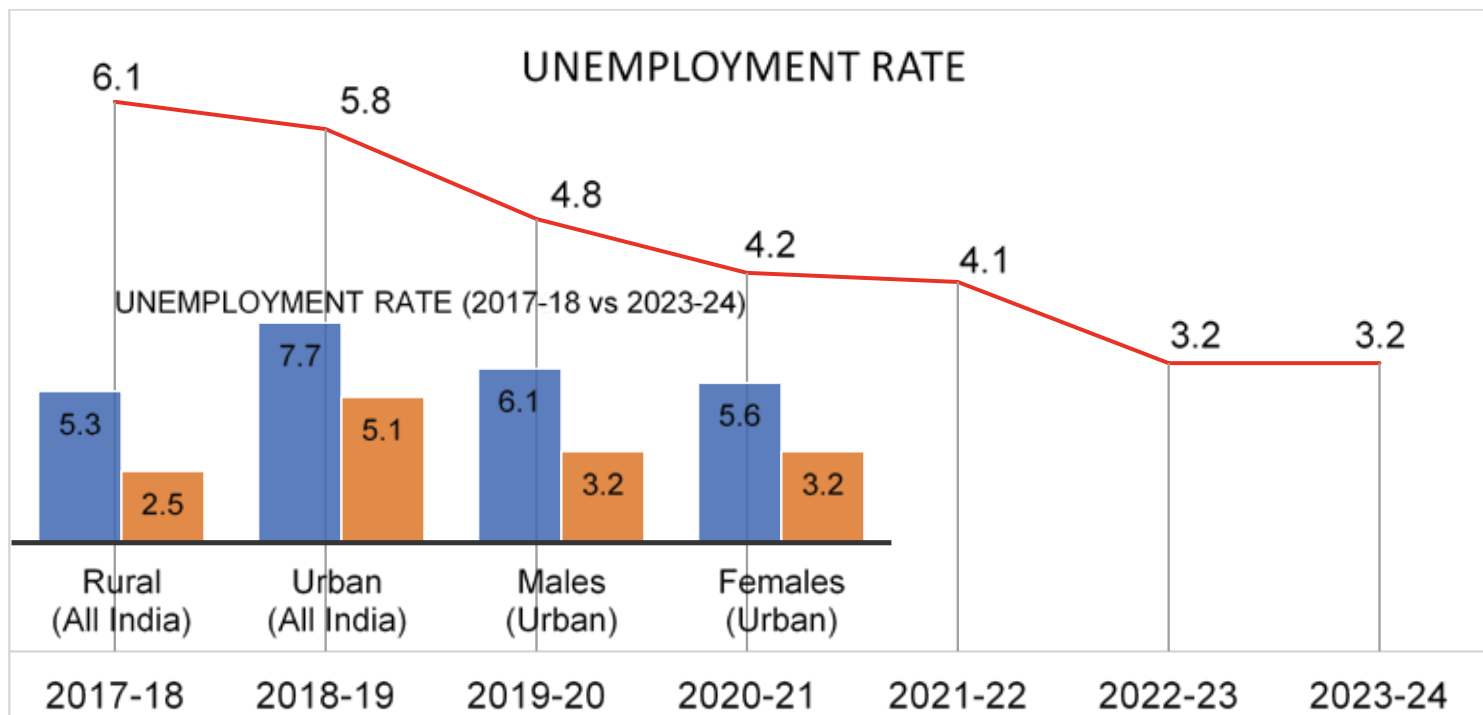


FIGURE: Column chart representation of the Unemployment Rate (UR) from 2017-18 to 2023-24. Source: Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the period between July 2023 and June 2024, released by the Labour Bureau on Monday, reported no major change in the unemployment rate (UR).

There is a minor increase in the distribution of workers in agriculture, and the manufacturing sector shows no growth in giving jobs compared with the past years.

The participation of women in the workforce has improved. The Centre had faced criticism for the growing unemployment rate and decrease in the number of women in jobs.

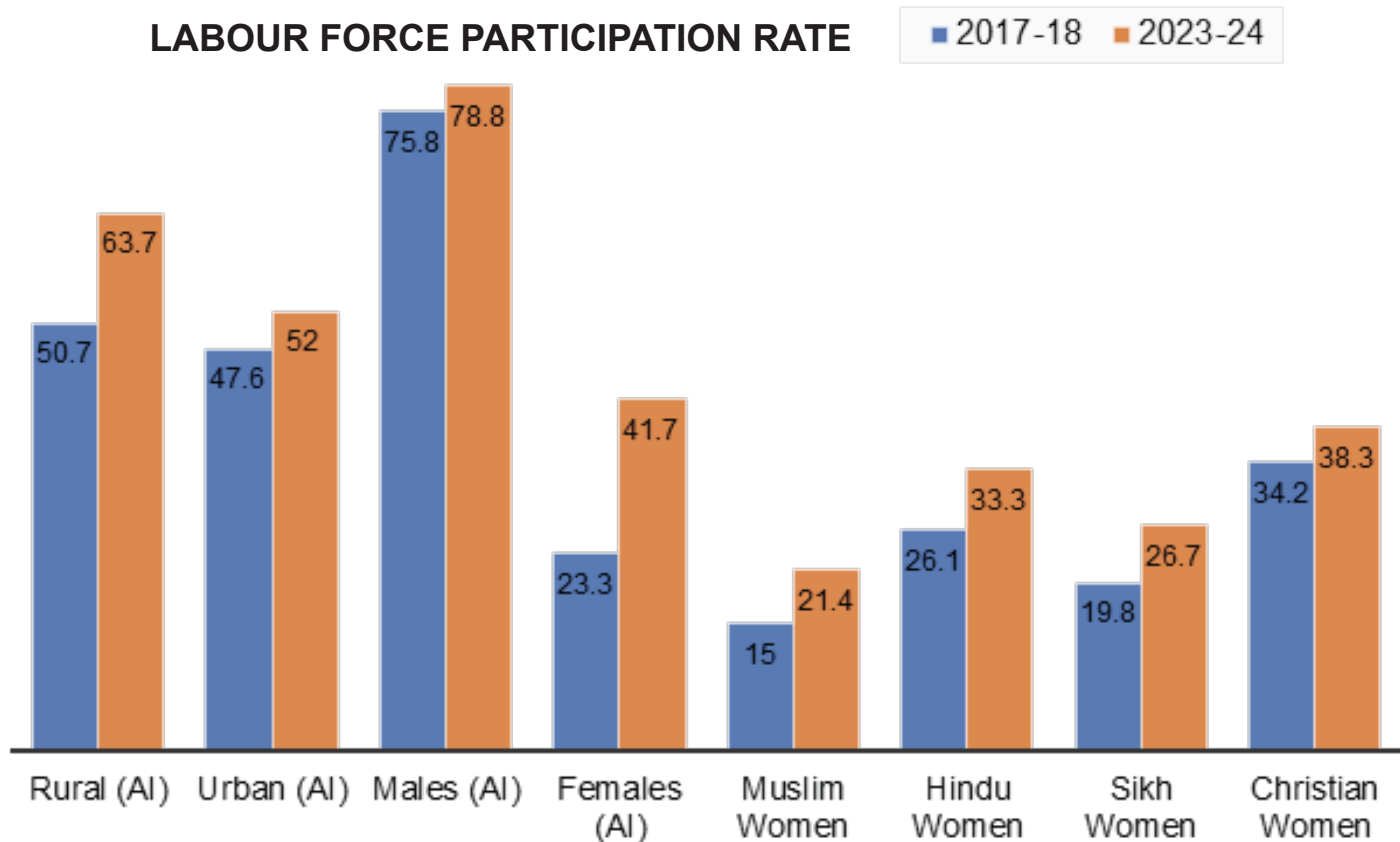


FIGURE: Column chart representation of the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) between 2017-18 and 2023-24. Source: Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Grim picture

The participation of workers in agriculture share has gone up for the fourth year continuously increasing Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio. The PLFS counts unpaid family labour as employment. The share of manufacturing in providing employment is 11.4 %, while the contribution of construction work has gone back to 12 %. The process of people looking for non-farm jobs reversed.

Top Hezbollah commander killed as toll from Israeli strikes rises to 560

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Israel killed Ibrahim Kobeisi, a top commander with Hezbollah’s missile and rocket unit on Tuesday alleged to be responsible for launches towards Israel. The Israeli military traded fire with Hezbollah again and the death toll from a massive Israeli bombardment climbed to nearly 560 people.

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said it launched missiles overnight and in the morning at eight sites in Israel, including an explosives factory in Zichron Yaakov, 60 km from the border. Israeli carried out dozens of air strikes on Hezbollah targets, including on a cell that fired rockets overnight, and that tanks and artillery struck targets near the border.



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