


SC upholds Section 6A of Citizenship Act as valid

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

 Section 6A was included with the objective of reducing the influx of migrants... The Assam Accord was a political solution to the issue of growing migration and Section 6A was a legislative solution.

CHIEF JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD



 A nation can accommodate immigrants and refugees, while simultaneously prioritising sustainable development and equitable allocation of resources.

JUSTICE SURYA KANT



A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a 4:1 majority judgment on Thursday, upheld the constitutionality of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which permits immigrants from Bangladesh residing in Assam to secure Indian citizenship. The court was hearing petitions filed by NGOs like Assam Public Works and the Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha, which condemned Section 6A for the huge inflow of illegal immigration. The majority on the Bench held that Section 6A did not violate citizenship provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of

the Constitution. The court held it as a valid piece of legislation aligned to the preambular value of fraternity.

Section 6A, which traces its roots to the political solution of Assam Accord of 1985, mandates that immigrants who entered Assam from Bangladesh prior to January 1, 1966 would be deemed to be Indian citizens. Those who entered the State between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 would be conferred citizenship based on the fulfilment of specific procedures and conditions. The Section, however barred citizenship to those who entered Assam after March 25, 1971.

The Chief Justice agreed that the cut-off date of March 25, 1971 was reasonable. He reminded that the Pakistani Army had launched Operation Searchlight to curb the Bengali nationalist movement in East Pakistan on March 26, 1971. The immigrants from Bangladesh who entered India before the cut-off date were victims of the partition towards whom India had a liberal policy, while those who came after the date were taken in as refugees of the war.

The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 after a six-year-long violent anti-foreigner movement. The pact stated, among other clauses, that names of all foreigners coming to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, would be detected and deleted from electoral rolls with steps taken to deport them. The All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad was the other signatory of the Assam Accord. The third signatory was the Rajiv Gandhi-led Union government.

The Supreme Court found the statutory machinery and Tribunals tasked with the identification and

detection of illegal immigrants or foreigners in Assam inadequate and disproportionate to the requirement of giving time-bound effect to the legislative object of Section 6A read with the Immigrants (Expulsion from 185 Assam) Act, 1950, the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967.

“Section 6A does not violate Article 29(1) of the Constitution. Article 29(1) guarantees the right to take steps to protect the culture, language and script of a section of citizens. The petitioners have been unable to prove that the ability of the Assamese people to take steps to protect their culture is violated by the provisions of Section 6A”

- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud

“The principle of fraternity cannot be selectively applied to one section living in Assam while another lot are labelled “illegal immigrants. Our reading of the Constitution and precedents is that fraternity requires people of different backgrounds and social circumstances to ‘live and let live’... When faced with the dilemma of disenfranchising millions or safeguarding a community’s endogamous way of life, this court would certainly be compelled by the principles of fraternity to prioritise the former. The implementation of immigration and citizenship legislation cannot be left to the mere wish and discretion of the authorities, necessitating constant monitoring by this court”.

- Justice Surya Kant

Top Hamas leader Sinwar killed in Gaza, says Israeli military

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Israel killed Hamas’s top leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of last year’s attack on Israel that sparked the war. The military confirmed Sinwar’s death after conducting DNA tests on a body it said was among three militants killed on Wednesday during operations in Gaza. Yahya Sinwar was one of the chief architects of Hamas’s attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and Israel had vowed to kill him since the beginning of its retaliatory campaign in Gaza. Yahya Sinwar had been Hamas’s top leader inside the Gaza Strip for years, closely connected to its military wing while dramatically building up its capabilities.

Sinwar had topped Israel’s most wanted list since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war just over a year ago, and his killing strikes a powerful blow to the militant group. Foreign Minister Israel Katz called Sinwar’s killing a “military and moral achievement for the Israeli Army,” saying it would “create the possibility to immediately release the hostages”.

Sinwar was imprisoned by Israel from the late 1980s until 2011, and during that time he underwent treatment for brain cancer – leaving Israeli authorities with extensive medical records. U.S. President Joe Biden has been briefed on Israel’s investigation into whether it killed Sinwar, and U.S. officials have been in close contact with Israeli officials throughout Thursday morning.



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

–Benjamin Franklin

India, Pakistan should move on from past: Nawaz Sharif

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for rapprochement of India and Pakistan, exhorting both sides to “pick up the threads” of the conversation that he had begun with former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Pitching for bilateral trade and connectivity, Mr. Sharif, who stepped aside and made his brother Shehbaz Sharif Prime Minister after the PML-N came to power in March, repeatedly spoke about building a “different future”

on tackling issues such as climate change and energy shortage.

Laying blame

Nawaz Sharif blamed the poor state of ties on Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Imran Khan for making personal statements about Mr. Modi, which he said could “destroy good relations between any two countries”. Mr. Sharif declined to respond to questions about more contentious issues of the past, including the Pathankot terror attack that followed Mr. Modi’s visit to Lahore, and whether “burying the past” would mean moving beyond Pakistan’s objections to the 2019 re-organisation of Jammu and Kashmir and amendment of Article 370.

Mr. Sharif and Ms. Maryam Sharif met the Indian journalists who had travelled to Pakistan to cover the 10-nation SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15-16, a rare occasion in the past few years when Indian journalists have been granted visas and said that visas should now be “eased” between both countries.

While Mr. Sharif does not hold office, he is the President of the ruling PML-N, and is seen as the most influential figure in Pakistani politics at present. On Tuesday, he hosted a dinner to bring together all the major political parties in power in order to gain consensus for a constitutional amendment Mr. Shehbaz Sharif wants to introduce. Ms. Sharif said that she “continues to be guided” by him in her work as Punjab’s first woman Chief Minister



**START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE
BEST**

INDIA'S TOP MOST CIVIL SERVANTS FOR COACHING

Chief Justice Chandrachud recommends Justice Sanjiv Khanna as successor

POLITY & GOVERNANCE



Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has recommended Justice Sanjiv Khanna for appointment as the 51st Chief Justice of India. Chief Justice Chandrachud will retire on November 10.

Under the Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court judges, the Law Ministry seeks the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice about the next appointment. The letter from the government kick-starts the appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India. Justice Khanna is the next in line in accordance with the seniority norm. He enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983.

Career record of Justice Sanjiv Khanna

- Practised in the District Courts and later in the Delhi High Court in various fields of law, including constitutional law, direct taxation, arbitration, commercial law, company law, land law, environmental law, and medical negligence.
- Served as a senior standing counsel for the Income Tax Department.
- Functioned as a standing counsel for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and appeared as an Additional Public Prosecutor and amicus curiae in the High Court.
- Elevated as an Additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006.
- Appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 2019.

Justice Khanna was ranked 33 in the combined seniority of High Court judges on an all-India basis. However, the then Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had recommended him over others on grounds of merit and integrity.

Justice Khanna had led the Supreme Court which gave interim bail to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to campaign in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He was also a member of the Constitution Bench which upheld the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K. Justice Khanna is due to retire on May 13, 2025.

The
More
You Learn,
The
More
You Earn

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

Supreme Court questions logic behind exception to marital rape in penal law

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the logic behind a penal law which considers wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation and assault of a wife by her husband as offences but not the act of forced sex which follows after the woman relents under pressure.

The Supreme Court Bench was hearing of a batch of petitions seeking criminalisation of non-consensual sexual acts in a marriage as 'rape'. The petitioners have argued that protection given to non-consensual sexual acts by a man with his wife violated the woman's right to bodily integrity, autonomy and dignity.

Centre's take on matter

However, a recent affidavit filed by the Union government said punishment of non-consensual sexual acts in a wedlock and categorising it as rape would impact conjugal relationship and lead to "serious disturbances" in the institution of marriage.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who heads the three-judge Bench including Justice Manoj Misra, drew attention to the fact that the definition of rape was not restricted to peno-vaginal sexual intercourse, and even included heinous acts such as insertion of a foreign object into a woman's body. The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), argued that the removal of the marital rape exception would destroy the institution of marriage. Protecting a married woman from rape would not destroy the institution of marriage. Marriage is personal and not institutional. Sexual choices and consent are essential attributes of autonomy.

Sexual autonomy is at the core of the guaranteed freedoms in the Constitution. Taking it away through marriage is antithetical to Constitutional values. A woman's sexuality is not purely a physiological attribute. Even in the most private instances of marriage, the individual does not lose her dignity or individuality.

She referred to how the apex court had struck down the penal provision of adultery, which was an example of a patriarchal provision. "A married woman was treated as chattel," she submitted.

Justice Pardiwala asked how it could be perceived whether a wife had consented or not to sexual intercourse in a marriage. The senior lawyer noted that consent to a sexual act by a woman would be "unequivocal and voluntary agreement". This threshold applied to a married woman too.



**MASTER THE NEW
LEARNING MANTRA**

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

The endgame

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

U.S. District Judge James Donato in the ongoing legal dispute between Alphabet's subsidiary and Tencent-backed Epic Games issued an injunction forcing Google to open up its Android platform to third-party app stores and alternative payment options. Epic bypassed Google's rules by making users pay the publisher directly, following which Google removed Epic's popular game Fortnite from the Play Store for violating its payment terms culminating in filing an antitrust lawsuit in 2020. The injunction has far-reaching implications for how the Android app ecosystem functions, triggering the battle.

Judge Donato's ruling, set to take effect in November, orders Google to halt practices that have limited competition, such as paying companies to launch apps exclusively on its marketplace or preinstalling Google Play on new devices. Google has long held disproportionate power over app developers enforcing its payment systems and restricting alternative options. Google argues that these changes pose risks to user privacy and security and could limit developers' ability to promote their apps.

The ruling also mandates Google to allow rival app stores to be featured on its Play Store and for app developers to show alternative payment systems. For three years, this injunction will reshape how Google operates its marketplace, creating space for increased competition in the Android ecosystem. By mandating that Google open its platform to third-party app stores and payment systems, the court seeks to introduce fairness to a market that has been controlled by a single player for too long.

Google charge a 15 % - 30 % commission the company charges app developers for transactions made through apps from Play Store, bringing in billions each year for Google. During the trial, it was revealed that Google had cut special deals with major developers, including Spotify and Tinder-owner Match Group, allowing them to pay lower commissions. This further fuelled claims of unfair practices in the app marketplace.

The ruling, if upheld, could dismantle this dominance. For end consumers, the real impact could be felt in the form of lower costs for paid apps and in-app purchases. When developers are no longer subject to Google's hefty commissions, those savings could be passed down to users. Ultimately, this ruling could signal a shift toward more transparent and fairer business practices in the tech industry, and push giants to reconsider how they operate in the global digital economy.

India's SDG focus and its human development issues

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

On September 9-10, 2023, New Delhi hosted the G-20 Summit, which resolved to accelerate the full and effective implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. On September 18-19, 2023, an "SDG Summit" was convened at the United Nations headquarters to follow up and review the implementation of the Agenda and the progress of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A "Summit of the Future" took place on September 22-23, 2024, at the UN headquarters to build upon the SDG Summit 2023 and its commitments by member nations.

In this context, examining India's progress in human development since 1990, based on the UNDP's latest Human Development Report (HDR), is valid. As said by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen in his book, *Development as Freedom*, 'development is a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy'. In his 'capability approach', the basic concern of human development is 'our capability to lead the kind of lives we have reason to value'. Freedom from hunger and ill-health on the one hand and gender and

income equality, and access to quality education on the other hand lead to the achievement of human development, and, consequently, to sustainable development.

Development and the SDGs

The Human Development Index (HDI) developed by the UNDP has three dimensions: long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy at birth); knowledge (expected years of schooling and mean years of schooling), and a decent standard of living (income per capita). All the three dimensions are much related to some of the key SDGs: SDG-3 (good health); SDG-4 (quality education); SDG-5 (gender equality); SDG-8 (decent work) and SDG-10 (reduced inequality). Clearly, countries aspiring to achieve sustainable development need to take appropriate measures to boost human development.

The HDR 2023-24 places India in the 'medium human development category' with a human development index (HDI) value of 0.644. India ranks 134 out of 193 countries. The HDI value was stagnant in 2019-20, at 0.638, and fell to 0.633 in 2021. It improved to 0.644 in 2022. In this report, some of India's neighbouring countries have better HDI ranks — Malaysia (63); Thailand (66); China (75); Sri Lanka (78); Indonesia (112); Bhutan (125), and Bangladesh (129).

The HDR also presents interpolated consistent data which can be used to compare HDI values across years and countries. India saw its HDI value increase by 48.4%, from 0.434 in 1990 to 0.644 in 2022. As for HDI rankings, during 2015-2022, India improved by four ranks, while neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Bhutan improved by 12 and 10 ranks, respectively. China improved by 18 ranks. India's human development initiatives lagged behind during 2015-22. One of the reasons for the slow growth is the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on dimensions of human development such as education and income.

Gender gaps

The HDR also presents the Gender Development Index (GDI) for 193 countries. It measures disparities in human development by gender. The report contains HDI values estimated separately for women and men, the ratio of which is the GDI value. The closer the ratio is to one, the lesser the gap there is between women and men.

Among the 42 'medium human development countries' to which India belongs, there are only seven with low equality in HDI achievements between women and men. These countries, with absolute deviation from gender parity of more than 10%, are India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Kiribati.

India has one of the largest gender gaps in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) a 47.8 percent points difference between women (28.3%) and men (76.1%). Female labour force participation rate in India is very low when compared to many countries, more so when one compares it with India's neighbouring countries where in China it is 53.6 %, Bhutan 53.5 %, and Bangladesh 39.2%.

In the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) -2022-23, published by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, around 37% females of working age (15 years and above) were in the labour force in 2022-23; it was 23.3% in 2017-18. However, there is a huge gap in female labour force participation in rural and urban areas. While the female labour force participation rate in rural areas increased from 24.6% in 2017-18 to 41.5% in 2022-23, there is only a marginal increase in urban areas (from 20.4% to 25.4%). This is a matter of concern that requires further research and in-depth study aimed at feasible policy initiatives.

Income inequality

In addition to the gender gap in income, inequality of incomes is also on the rise. India is one of the countries where income shares held by the richest 1% is very high (21.7%) compared to Bangladesh (11.6%), China (15.7%), Bhutan (18.1%), and Nepal (9.7%). Income inequality in India is also higher than

the world average of 17.5% and the South Asia average of 19.6%. Most importantly, income inequality is also higher than other regional groups such as East Asia and the Pacific (16.5%) and Europe and Central Asia (15.7%).

India needs to address these gender development issues and increasing inequality in order to achieve the SDGs.

State and central schemes

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

India has already implemented income transfer schemes as part of its anti-poverty strategies, especially in the agriculture sector. In early 2018, Telangana launched the Rythu Bandhu Scheme (RBS), which gave farmers unconditional payments of ₹ 4,000 per acre. This approach was soon replicated at both the State level (the KALIA or Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation programme in Odisha), and at the national level (the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, or PM-KISAN). The PM-KISAN, of 2018-19, initially provided ₹ 6,000 per year to small landholding farmers, but was later expanded to cover all farmers, excluding income-taxpayers and those not engaged in farming. By 2020-21, the scheme aimed to cover around 10 crore farming households, with an estimated cost of ₹ 75,000 crore, roughly 0.4% of GDP.

Despite the programme's scale and relative success, issues such as inclusion and exclusion errors persist, mainly due to logistical challenges such as Aadhaar verification and rejections by banks. It is to overcome limitations such as these that the proposal to make them universal, covering all citizens, has been proposed.

Universal income transfers offer several advantages. They reduce administrative costs associated with targeting and minimise exclusion errors. Since the transfers are universal, fewer intermediaries are involved, lowering the chances of leakage. Universal transfers also avoid work disincentives often associated with targeted programmes.

A common reaction to such a proposal is to question why the wealthy should also receive a basic income. However, this viewpoint misunderstands how tax and benefit systems operate. In any advanced economy, individuals pay taxes and receive some form of government support, such as child benefits, depending on their circumstances. What ultimately matters is their net income. Similarly, wealthier individuals would pay far more in taxes than the amount they would receive from a UBI.

A possible scheme

UBI proposals often suggest large transfers, amounting to 3.5 % - 11 % of GDP, which would either require cutting other anti-poverty programmes or drastically raising taxes. A more feasible approach would be to adopt a limited Universal Income Transfer scheme, pegged at 1 % of GDP per capita. This would provide approximately ₹ 144 per month to every citizen (or roughly ₹ 500 a month a household), which works out to be similar to that of PM-KISAN. It can be implemented simply by roughly doubling the budget for PM-KISAN and making it universal, which means it would reach not only farmers but also landless labourers, who are often poorer. The Tendulkar poverty line, at 2022-23 prices is around ₹ 1,500 a month in rural areas and ₹ 1,850 in urban areas — or an average of ₹ 1,600.

This approach could also simplify implementation by reducing eligibility verification costs. However, there are still logistical challenges such as ensuring access to cash-out points (COPs), minimising network and biometric authentication failures, and addressing issues with electronic payment devices. These last-mile delivery problems need to be addressed to ensure the success of universal income transfers in India.

Given the fiscal constraints that State and central governments face, it is natural to be sceptical of new policies when other policies that are somewhat similar are already in place. For example, the MGNREGS provides 100 days of employment but may exclude those unable to work, such as the elderly or the disabled. Combining MGNREGS with a modified UBI scheme could ensure comprehensive coverage for different vulnerable groups. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the point that income and in-kind transfers are complementary. For example, income is critical during supply chain disruptions, and food access is essential when people lack purchasing power.

Tomatoes stoke fresh fears of food inflation spike this month

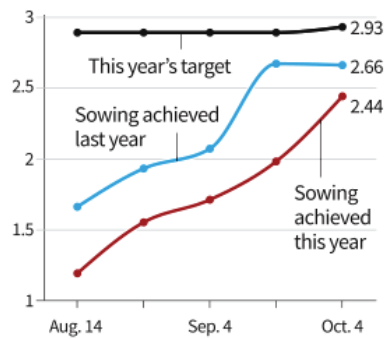
POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Why are tomato prices rising?

A combination of decline in sowing and unusually high rainfall in late September meant mandi arrivals of tomato fell sharply in October. Due to the demand-supply mismatch, wholesale and retail prices of tomatoes skyrocketed, with the prices relatively higher in northern and eastern regions of India. By Nitika Francis and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Chart 1: Sowing declines

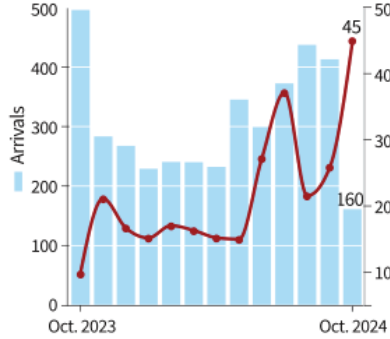
Area (in lakh hectares) of tomato crop sown in the current and last year on various dates



Sowing of tomato declined this year. As of Oct. 4, 2.44 lakh hectares (lha) was sown, 0.2 lha less than last year and 0.49 lha less than the target

Chart 3: Arrivals decline

Arrivals of tomatoes across all mandis (in crore kgs) and modal prices (in ₹/kg)



Arrivals drastically declined in October (36% y-o-y), leading to a surge in mandi prices (modal value) touching ₹45/kg



Chart 2: High rainfall in late September

Weekly variation in rainfall compared to LPA* in regions falling under the tomato production belt

Divisions in tomato belt	June 1-5			July 3-9			August 7-13			September 4-10									
Rayalaseema	LE	LE	LE	D	D	N	N	N	N	LD	E	E	LE	LD	LE	D	LE	N	D
S.I. Karnataka*	E	LE	D	D	D	N	N	LE	LE	LE	N	N	LE	D	N	D	LD	D	D
West M.P.	N	D	D	E	N	E	N	N	N	E	E	N	D	LE	N	LE	LE	D	LE
Odisha	LE	LD	LD	D	E	D	D	LE	N	E	D	D	N	N	E	N	N	N	LE
Gujarat Region	LD	D	LD	N	E	D	N	E	E	N	D	LD	LE	LE	LE	D	D	D	LE
Madhya Maharashtra	D	LE	D	N	N	E	E	LE	LE	E	D	E	LE	N	N	LD	N	LE	LE

*LPA: Long period average
*S.I.: South interior

In the graph, LE: Large excess rainfall; E: Excess, N: Normal, D: Deficient, LD: Large deficient. In the last week of September, large excess rainfall in four of the six major tomato production belts destroyed tomatoes ready for sale

Chart 4: Retail prices spike

Chart shows average retail prices every month in ₹/kg

Zone	Oct. 2023			Mar. 2024			Oct. 2024						
North	27	41	39	31	34	36	36	32	31	68	53	46	70
West	25	34	30	27	31	30	28	29	39	66	45	40	58
East	33	43	41	31	28	27	29	30	39	64	53	49	64
South	21	33	32	31	29	25	29	33	55	56	33	33	56

The average retail prices shot up to ₹65-70 per kilo in the northern and the eastern regions in October. In the south and the west, the spikes were relatively less pronounced, with the retail prices ranging from ₹55-58 per kg

Source: Agmarknet, Dept. of Consumer Affairs, IMD

Retail tomato prices had jumped 233% in July relative to June, but eased about 23% in August, bringing some relief. However, the excess rainfall in September has sparked a fresh challenge with Mandi arrivals more than halving from August.

On a year-on-year basis, vegetable inflation shot up to a 14-month high of 36% in September. For tomatoes, the situation appears worse since the initial days of October, pushing the key kitchen staple beyond the ₹100-a-kilo mark in many cities of the country, even as onion and potato prices continue to pinch.

On October 7, the Centre intervened in the market, launching tomato sales at ₹65 per kg in Delhi NCR. The Consumer Affairs Ministry termed the price rise “unwarranted” and pointed to the ‘possible role of market intermediaries’ amid ‘this high demand festive season’.

RBI orders ‘cease and desist’ on 4 NBFCs for usurious pricing

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday ordered four Non-Banking Financial Corporations (NBFCs) - Asirvad Micro Finance Ltd., the MFI arm of Manappuram Finance Ltd., Arohan Financial Services Ltd., Mitsubishi UFG-backed DMI Finance Private Ltd., and Navi Finserv Ltd. to cease and desist from sanction and disbursement of loans, charging them with usurious pricing and other regulatory deviations.

The RBI notified these actions based on material supervisory concerns observed in the pricing policy of these companies in terms of their Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) and the interest spread charged over their cost of funds. In addition to usurious pricing, the four NBFCs were also found to be in violation of regulatory guidelines on assessment of household income and consideration of existing or proposed monthly repayment obligations in respect of microfinance.

Apart from this, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had also found deviations such as ever greening of loans, conduct of gold loans portfolio, mandated disclosure requirements on interest rates and fees, and outsourcing of core financial services, among others. The business restrictions will kick in on October 21 and will not affect the services provided to existing customers. The curbs will be reviewed once the RBI is satisfied with the remedial actions taken by the companies.



**START YOUR
JOURNEY WITH THE
BEST**

COME JOIN WITH US



China to almost double support for unfinished housing projects

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT



China would boost credit available for unfinished housing projects to more than \$ 500 billion as it unveiled another round of measures to shore up the sector and try to reignite the economy. The real-estate sector has long accounted for around a quarter of gross domestic product and experienced dazzling growth for two decades but a years-long housing slump has battered growth.

At a briefing, Housing Minister Ni Hong offered fresh help, saying Beijing will “increase the credit scale of white-list

projects to four trillion” yuan by the end of the year, up from more than two trillion. The “white list” scheme, announced earlier this year, pushes local authorities to recommend housing projects for financial support and work with banks to ensure their completion.

China’s leadership last month warned the economy was being plagued by “new problems” as officials unveiled a raft of stimulus in one of the biggest drives to boost growth for years. Among the measures were a string of interest rate cuts and the loosening of restrictions on home-buying. The latest announcement comes as China prepares to release third-quarter growth data Friday, which is forecast to be the slowest this year.

Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant for Hasina

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), established by ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s government in 2010, has issued arrest warrants against her, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, and 44 others. These warrants are in connection with alleged crimes against humanity committed during the July-August 2024 protests, which led to the downfall of the Hasina government.

The tribunal, chaired by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar, issued the orders following two petitions filed by the prosecution seeking the arrest of Ms. Hasina and other key political figures. The tribunal also directed the authorities to arrest the 46 individuals, and present them before the court by November 18.

The prosecutor also informed that many of the accused continue to hold important positions within the state, which is why the tribunal has not fully disclosed their identities. The ICT was reconstituted on October 14, with Justice Mortuza appointed as chairman. The restructuring aims to expedite trials related to “crimes against humanity committed” during the July-August protests. The protests saw at least 753 people killed and thousands injured. More than 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Ms. Hasina and other senior Awami League leaders with the ICT’s investigation agency.



VEDHIK

IAS ACADEMY

The New Learning Mantra

START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE BEST

**INDIA'S
TOP MOST
CIVIL SERVANTS
FOR COACHING**

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

Head Office:
Vedhik IAS Academy
Mercy Estate,
MG Road, Ravipuram,
Ernakulam-682 015,

Corporate office:
Vedhik IAS Academy
Samkalp Bhawan, Plot No.15,
Sector 4, Rama Krishna Puram,
New Delhi, Delhi-110022

Regional office
Vedhik IAS Academy
202, Raheja Chambers, 12,
Museum Road. Bangalore -
560001. Karnataka, India.

GCC Office:
Bobscoedu,
Bobsco Trading & Contracting Co. W. L . L
Office 22, Dream Tower 1,
Road: 2701, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain
www.bobscoedu.com