

A day after he walked out of the Tamil Nadu Assembly following a faceoff with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Governor R.N. Ravi on Tuesday disapproved of the DMK government's use of the Tamil term *ondriya arasu* to denote the Centre. During an interaction with a batch of candidates who had cleared their Civil Services (Main) Examination and are preparing for the interview, the Tamil Nadu Governor shared his view that the word "ondriyam" referred to a sub-district, subdivisional level structure in the hierarchy, and the term was used perhaps with an intention to "belittle" and be "disrespectful" to the Union government.

More than eight years after the bifurcation of the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh, division of assets and liabilities between the two States remain elusive as the States make their own interpretation of the provisions under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014. The AP Government is firm on the implementation of the recommendations given by the expert committee headed by retired bureaucrat Sheela Bhide for bifurcation of 89 out of the 91 Schedule IX institutions. Several meetings of the dispute resolution committee headed by the Union Home Secretary and comprising of the Chief Secretaries of the two States and those convened by the dispute resolution sub-committee could not break the impasse.

In order to enhance the safety, transparency and effective management of safe deposit lockers provided by banks, the RBI has released a list of revised guidelines, which came into force from January 1, 2022. Banks would now be allowed to obtain a 'term deposit' at the time of allotment to a consumer. It would cover three years' rent and the charges for breaking open a locker should the locker hirer neither operate it nor pay rent. For lockers operated through an electronic system, the bank must institute measures to safeguard it against any breach of security.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for three capital acquisition proposals amounting to ₹4,276 crore. These include the helicopter-launched Nag (HELINA) antitank guided missiles (ATGM), very short range air defence systems (VSHORAD), BrahMos cruise missile launchers, and fire control systems (FCS) for naval ships. All three are indigenous design and development projects.

At least 17 people died on Monday in Peru as protesters trying to storm an airport clashed with security forces in the latest violent spasm of a month-old political crisis. This new chapter of bloodshed took place in the south-eastern city of Juliaca, in the Puno region. Like others have for the past month, these protesters were demanding the departure of President Dina Boluarte, who took over after the ouster and arrest of then President Pedro Castillo on December 7.

NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NHA) INTRODUCES NEW SYSTEM UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA (AB PM-JAY) TO GRADE HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE

1. New initiative will introduce the concept of 'value-based care', where payment will be outcome based and providers will be rewarded according to quality of treatment delivered. It aims to focus on measuring the performance of hospitals from volume of services provided to value of healthcare services under AB PMJAY.
2. Performance of AB PM-JAY empanelled hospitals will be measured based on five performance indicators. Performance shall be made available on public dashboard that will help beneficiaries to make an informed decision.
3. **Significance of Value based care**-Create demand for quality treatment. Patients will get better health outcomes and higher satisfaction out of the services they receive. Improve healthcare landscape in India by incentivizing and encouraging healthcare providers to focus more on delivering patient-centric services.
4. AB PMJAY is a centrally sponsored health assurance scheme. It provides a cover of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. It provides cashless and paperless access to services for beneficiary at point of service. Beneficiary families have been identified from Socio Economic Caste Census, 2011.

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATED 17TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS (PBD) CONVENTION IN INDORE

1. PBD convention is celebrated two years since 2015 to strengthen engagement of overseas Indian community with Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. It is held on January 9 to mark Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915.
2. Theme of PBD Convention is "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal". Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is given out as part of PBD. It commemorates contribution of Indian diaspora to create a better understanding of India abroad, support India's causes and work for welfare of local Indian community. Diaspora is a community of people from the same homeland who have been scattered or have migrated to other lands.
3. **Significance of Diaspora**-Help in strengthening the identity of Brand India. Remittances aid in socioeconomic development. Act as bridges, mediators, facilitators, lobby, and advocacy groups at international platforms.
4. Facilitating entrepreneurship in the form of technical knowledge transfers and finances. In addition, to mark PBD, India and U.K. launched Young Professionals Scheme. It'll permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other's countries for a period of two years.

DAMS WILL LOSE 26% STORAGE CAPACITY BY 2050: UN STUDY

1. Study was conducted by UN University Institute on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)- UN's think tank on water. It highlighted that 3,700 Indian dams will lose 26 percent of their total storage by 2050 due to accumulation of sediments.
2. **Concerns related to accumulation of sediments**-Reduction in hydro- electricity generation; Reduction in water availability for irrigation due to less storage capacity; Affects safety of dams and reduces discharge capacity and flood attenuation capabilities; Increases loads on dam and gates, damages mechanical equipment and creates a wide range of environmental impacts.
3. India is 3rd largest dam-owning nation in world after US and China. India has 5334 completed and operational large dams while 411 large dams are under construction. Importance of dams: Water for drinking and industrial use, irrigation, flood control, hydro power generation, Inland navigation, and recreation. Issues with Dams: Most of large dams were built half a century ago, thus highly vulnerable to wear and tear; Lack of information on dam ageing etc.
4. **Initiatives taken for dam safety**-Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with financial assistance from World Bank. Dam safety act, 2021 for setting up empowered institutional

The Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) on Tuesday said it is not willing to pay a “farthing” more if a settlement with the Centre in 1989 is set aside by the Supreme Court even as a Constitution Bench asked the government why ₹50 crore of the \$470 million paid by the company has still not reached the Bhopal gas leak tragedy victims after all these years. The Centre, in a curative plea, has contended that the 1989 settlement is seriously impaired. It has sought additional funds of over ₹7,400 crores from the pesticide company. The government said there is fresh data of more suffering caused by the incident.

1.7 percentage, the global growth in 2023, according to the World Bank's latest forecast. It points to a “sharp, long-lasting slowdown” with growth roughly half the pace it predicted in June. Economists have warned of a slump in the world economy as countries battle soaring costs and central banks simultaneously hike interest rates to cool demand.

5.7 percentage by which Assets Under Management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry rose to a total of ₹39.88 lakh crore in 2022. This was an increase of close to seven lakh crores. “The industry grew at a slower pace in 2022 due to uncertainty in stock markets, and changing interest rate scenarios,” the Head of Research at FYERS, said.

7 percentage by which PM2.5 pollution in the national capital reduced in four years, from 108 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019 to 99.71 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022, the report by NCAP Tracker said. However, it remains below the desired level. The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) hopes to reduce pollution by 20 to 30% by 2024 (as compared to 2017 levels).

last 8 eight years were the warmest on record even with the cooling influence of a La Nina weather pattern since 2020, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service, the European Union's climate monitoring service. Average temperatures across 2022 make it the fifth warmest year since records began in the 19th century.

framework for dam safety both at Central and State level. Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA).

OZONE LAYER RECOVERY IS ON TRACK, HELPING AVOID GLOBAL WARMING BY 0.5°C

1. Report titled “Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2022” was prepared in coordination with WMO, UNEP, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NASA and European Commission. It is published every four years on Montreal Protocol (MP) progress and confirms phase-out of nearly 99 percent of banned ozone-depleting substances (ODS) such as chlorine, bromine, methyl chloroform etc.
2. ODS are long-lived man-made chemicals which destroy protective ozone layer. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer, 1987 was negotiated as a protocol to Vienna Convention, 1985.
3. **Key observations of report**-Actions taken under MP contribute to ozone recovery in upper stratospheric layer. If current policies remain in place, ozone layer is expected to recover to 1980 values by around 2066 over Antarctic, by 2045 over Arctic and by 2040 for rest of world. Compliance with 2016 Kigali Amendment to MP, which requires phase down of production and consumption of some hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), is estimated to avoid 0.3–0.5°C of warming by 2100.
4. **About Ozone**-Highly reactive molecule formed of three oxygen atoms found primarily in two regions of atmosphere. Nearly 90% of Earth's ozone resides in stratosphere (known as Ozone Layer) above troposphere (layer closest to Earth's surface).

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS) PUBLISHED INDIAN STANDARD FOR USB TYPE C RECEPTACLES, PLUG AND CABLES

1. BIS under Ministry of Consumer Affairs has introduced standard for USB Type-C port, plug and cables used in electronic devices like mobile phone, laptop etc. It aims to provide common charging solutions for various electronic devices sold in country by March 2025. USB i.e., Universal Serial Bus (an industry standard) is used for connecting a wide variety of devices to a processor.
2. **USB Types:** USB-A is a flat and rectangular shape; USB-B has multiple designs, but common shape is a square; and USB-C is a smaller rectangular with rounded corners. In EU by 2024, all mobile phones, tablets and cameras will be sold with a USB Type-C charging port.
3. **Need for Common Charger**-To reduce number of chargers per consumer, thus reducing e-waste in India (as of 2021, 5 million tonnes of e-waste generated in India). Step towards LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) that nurtures a global network of individuals, i.e., ‘Pro-Planet People’ (P3).
4. Ease out technological ‘lock-in’ effect, whereby a consumer becomes dependent on a single manufacturer. BIS also published standards for digital television receivers with built-in satellite tuners and video surveillance security systems.



“Motivation is like a nutrition supplement – you need it more if you are working out seriously.”

DR. KHAN
(KSG)