

DAILY PT POINTERS

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In a first, a tribal king from Kerala to attend Republic Day parade in Delhi

Sandeep Vellaram

IDUKKI

Raman Rajamannan, the head of the Mannan community and the only tribal king in Kerala, will participate in the Republic Day parade in Delhi.

According to officials, the king and his wife will join the event as guests of the Scheduled Tribes (SC) Development Department. Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes O.R. Kelu handed over the invitation to Mr. Rajamannan.

According to officials, this will be the first time a tribal king will attend the Republic Day parade in Delhi. The SC Development Department will meet the travel expenses of



Minister O.R. Kelu handing over the Republic Day invitation to king of Mannan tribal community at Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.

wife, Binumol.

During the visit, the couple will meet the President and other prominent leaders. He will also visit Agra and other historically important places in the capital. They will be returning to Kerala on February 2.

According to officials,

participation of persons from the tribal community of the State for the Republic Day parade. The SC Development Department then decided to send the couple as representatives of the community.

“The government’s decision is an honour to the

the official.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rajamannan and Ms. Binumol visited the State Assembly, and was received by Mr. Kelu. Devikulam MLA A. Raja accompanied them.

48 settlements

The Mannan community is mainly settled in the buffer zone area of the Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary at Kozhimala, the hub of the tribe with 48 settlements ruled by a king, the only such community in southern India.

The king is an integral part of the traditional functions and festivities of the community.

He will wear a turban or headgear and special dress on such occasions and will be assisted by two Ministers and soldiers during

- Raman Rajamannan, the head of the Mannan community and the only tribal king in Kerala, will participate in the Republic Day parade in Delhi, accompanied by his wife, Binumol. This marks the first time a tribal king from Kerala will attend the event.
- The Mannan community, located in the Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, consists of 48 settlements, with Rajamannan playing a key role in their traditional functions.

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What is U.S.'s new rule for exporting AI chips?

What is the main objective behind one of the last orders of the Biden administration? How will the tiered framework for licensing and exporting Artificial Intelligence chips work? How has the tech industry responded to the move? Will it affect India?

EXPLAINER

Saptaromo Ghosh

The story so far:

With an objective to advance increased control over circulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips and technology, the U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) introduced a tiered framework for licensing and exports. It held the regulations were in tandem with "national security and foreign policy interests". Further, it would help "cultivate a secure and trusted technology ecosystem for the responsible use and diffusion of AI".

What technology are we discussing?

Broadly, the regulation concerns advanced computing chips and certain closed AI model weights. AI models are software programs that comprise a series of mathematical operations. When data is entered into the program, it executes those operations on the entered data (provided by the user) to produce outputs which could be information, analysis or media. It is the design of these operations and their arrangement, known as the model architecture, that determines the nature and quality of the output.



GETTY IMAGES

advanced AI models would require a Validated End User (VEU) authorisation. Those that do not contribute to the development of advanced AI models,

weights are stored outside the U.S. "only under stringent security conditions" and that the large clusters of advanced integrated circuits (ICs) necessary to train

What are the concerns?

The primary concern relates to the threat to U.S.' global competitiveness in the realm. Ned Finkle, Vice President of Govt Affairs at NVIDIA – among the largest chip makers globally, wrote in a blogpost that it would undermine the innovation that has kept the U.S. ahead. Mr. Finkle argued that the rules would do nothing to enhance U.S. security. "The new rules would control technology worldwide, including technology that is already widely available in mainstream gaming PCs and consumer hardware."

Ken Glueck, Executive Vice President at Oracle, wrote in December 2024, that the rules assumed there were no other non-U.S. suppliers to procure GPU technology from. Explaining the aspect about competitiveness, the Oracle executive stated that by adding "more chips to the problem, you can keep playing the game". "If your alternate supplier has less performance, you can achieve parity by just adding more GPUs for the task. Enter Huawei and Tencent. Do it a cheaper price. Enter the CCP. And deploy it globally, enter Alibaba," he explained. The rules have been introduced less than a week before President-elect Donald Trump's return to the White House. The tech industry have pinned their hopes on the incoming administration to withdraw the

THE GIST

The new regulations update existing rules for export, re-export and transfers (in-country) by segregating countries into three tiers – each harbouring different rules for licensing and authorisation.

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- The U.S. has introduced new regulations controlling the export of advanced AI chips and technology, divided into three tiers based on country risk.
- Allies face no restrictions, while countries like China and India require authorization for AI-related transactions. Restrictions aim to prevent misuse by adversaries, particularly in military and cyber operations.
- Critics argue the rules could harm U.S. competitiveness, with concerns about China circumventing restrictions through subsidiaries. Indian companies may need authorization for AI chips, as India is not classified as a trusted ally due to concerns about chip leakage to Russia.

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Is the government encouraging 'crosspathy'?

Why did the Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration issue a directive allowing homeopathic practitioners to prescribe allopathic medicines?

Zubeda Hamid

The story so far:

The Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration has, in a recent directive, allowed homeopathic practitioners, who have completed a certificate course in modern pharmacology, to prescribe allopathic medications.

Why is it being challenged?

In 2017, the Maharashtra Medical Education and Drug Department had issued a notification allowing homeopathic practitioners to practise modern medicine. As per this notification, doctors who had obtained the Licentiate of the Court of Examiners of Homeopathy degree from 1951-1982 (the degree was abolished in 1982), and were registered with the Maharashtra Medical Council, were allowed to practise

modern medicine. This directive was challenged in the Bombay High Court by the Indian Medical Association (IMA). The High Court issued a stay, with the Bench questioning the risk that could be posed to patients if these doctors were allowed to practise allopathy.

IMA Maharashtra president Santosh Kadam said it was unclear why the Maharashtra FDA had now issued this directive. He said that even the central body for homeopathy had no provision to allow its practitioners to practise another stream of medicine and that 'crosspathy' was banned by the Supreme Court. Following the Bombay High Court stay, homeopathic practitioners were not allowed to prescribe allopathic medication, until the final decision of the court came in, he said.

Former secretary of the IMA, Maharashtra, Parthiv Sanghvi, pointed out that the issue has been tortraved as

the Maharashtra government allowing homeopathic practitioners to practise modern medicine – which is not the case, as this has already been stayed by the High Court. "This was a direction to chemists to entertain allopathic prescriptions of homeopathic practitioners. But who has given the FDA the authority to issue such a directive, in light of the fact that court has stayed the order allowing homeopathic practitioners to practise modern medicine," he asked.

What is SC's stance on 'crosspathy'?

In 1996, in *Poonam Verma versus Ashwin Patel and Others*, which involved a homeopath treating a patient with allopathic medications and the patient subsequently dying, the Supreme Court held the homeopath liable for negligence as he had prescribed medications that he was not qualified to. A 2015 research paper by Suresh Bada Math et al states

"Across judgments, the judiciary has held that cross-system practice is a form of medical negligence; however, it is permitted only in those states where the concerned governments have authorised it by a general or special order."

Is there a shortage of doctors?

The Central government has been promoting AYUSH medicine for some years now, with a push being given to integrative/integrated medicine. The rationale, in general, has been that India has a shortage of doctors, particularly in rural areas, and that the AYUSH cadre of practitioners can help fill in these gaps.

As per a Parliament statement in February 2024, there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the State medical councils and the National Medical Commission as on June 2022, and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors. The shortage of specialists is dire – the Health Dynamics of India 2022-23 report reveals a nearly 80% shortage of specialist doctors in community health centres across rural India. Public health specialist Soham Bhaduri pointed out that while there is evidence that mid-level providers can provide care of comparable quality to that of medical doctors, their orderly integration into the system is crucial. "Allowing just any cadre of alternative medical practitioners to assume roles and functions that are meant for medical doctors is a recipe for anarchy."

THE GIST



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- The Maharashtra FDA recently allowed homeopathic practitioners with a certificate in modern pharmacology to prescribe allopathic medications.
- This decision clarifies confusion among chemists regarding allopathic prescriptions from homeopaths. However, it faces opposition from the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which challenges the legality of such a directive, citing a Bombay High Court stay on similar rulings.
- Critics argue that allowing homeopaths to prescribe modern medicine after a brief course could harm patients.
- The move is part of efforts to address India's doctor shortage, particularly in rural areas, but experts warn it could undermine the healthcare system by diluting the role of qualified doctors.

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Centre announces hike in MSP for jute by ₹315 a quintal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute for the 2025-26 marketing season at ₹5,650 a quintal, an increase of ₹315 over the price in 2024-25.

Announcing the decision at a press conference here on Wednesday, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the new MSP will ensure a return of 66.8% over the average cost of production and will benefit jute growers.

“The approved MSP of raw jute for marketing season 2025-26 is in line with the principle of fixing MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as

lease. “Government of India has increased MSP of raw jute from ₹2,400 per quintal in 2014-15 to ₹5,650 per quintal in 2025-26, registering an increase of ₹3,250 per quintal (2.35 times),” the press release added.

The government added that it paid ₹1,300 crore to jute growers between 2014-15 and 2024-25 for the MSP, while it was ₹441 crore during the 2004-05 to 2013-14 period.

“The livelihood of 40 lakh farm families directly or indirectly depends on jute industry. About four lakh workers get direct employment in jute mills and trade in jute. Last year, jute was procured from 1.7 lakh farmers,” the Centre said.

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as

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What is MSP?

- It is the price at which the government offers to procure farmers’ produce during the season.
- It was first introduced in the 1965-66 season for wheat. Later the coverage was expanded to coarse cereals.
- It aims to provide a fair return to farmers and to protect the interests of consumers.
- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces the **MSP** at the start of each sowing season, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- The key considerations, while recommending the MSP for crops, are demand and supply, production cost, price trends in the domestic and international market and the likely implications of the price on consumers.

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National Health Mission has curbed several public health concerns, says Centre's report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The National Health Mission (NHM) has significantly contributed to improving India's public health, including lowering of the maternal mortality ratio, incidence of tuberculosis (TB), and sickle cell anaemia.

It has also contributed to expanding human resources in the field while fostering an integrated response to health emergencies, the Union government said on Wednesday in its assessment report

With NHM, maternal mortality ratio has declined by 83% since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45%

tor. "In FY 2021-22, NHM facilitated the engagement of 2.69 lakh additional healthcare workers, including general duty medical officers, specialists, staff nurses, AYUSH doctors, allied healthcare workers, and public health managers. Additionally, 90,740 community health

ed 1.38 lakh CHOs," the report stated.

It further noted that under NHM, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by 83% since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45%. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has fallen from 39 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 28 in 2020.

Moreover, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decreased from 2.3 in 2015 to 2.0 in 2020, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). These improvements indicate that India is on track to meet its

- The National Health Mission (NHM) has made significant strides in improving India's public health, reducing maternal mortality, TB, and sickle cell anemia. It has also increased healthcare staffing, adding over 12 lakh workers from 2021-24.
- Key achievements include an 83% decline in maternal mortality since 1990, a drop in infant mortality, and a decrease in fertility rates, putting India on track to meet U.N. health goals ahead of 2030.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-GS3(Economy)

India's Non-Fossil Fuel-Based Energy Capacity Reached 217 Gigawatt



- India is rapidly advancing in solar and wind energy, aiming for 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030, with 217 gigawatts already achieved. Last year, 24.5 gigawatts of solar and 3.4 gigawatts of wind capacity were added, with solar making up 47% of total renewable capacity.
- Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu led the way in solar and wind installations.
- The rooftop solar sector grew by 53%, aided by the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, while Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu accounted for 98% of the new wind capacity.