

Dam Safety Act can end disputes: SC

‘2021 law provides for almost everything, other than how to settle political scores’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday found in the **Dam Safety Act of 2021** a panacea to end the “perennial” legal battle between Tamil Nadu and Kerala over the Mullaperiyar dam.

A Bench led by **Justice A.M. Khanwilkar** said that the new law provided for almost everything, other than how to “settle political scores”, to resolve inter-State disputes over dams.

The Act comprehensively **postulates** for surveillance, operation and maintenance of dams to prevent disasters.

Two specialised bodies

Moreover, the Central statute, which came into force last December, mandates the setting up of two specialised



Kerala and T.N. have been constantly trading charges over the Mullaperiyar dam.

bodies, **National Committee on Dam Safety and National Dam Safety Authority** (NDSA) to evolve policies, recommend safety norms and resolve disputes between the States.

Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been trading charges over the safety, operation and maintenance of the **Mul-**

laperiyar dam. While Kerala claims the 126-year-old dam is unsafe, badly maintained and a threat to thousands of people living downstream, Tamil Nadu denies it. Kerala is pitching for a new dam there, while Tamil Nadu, which operates the reservoir, argues that the dam is well-preserved and so strong that the water level could even be increased to 152 feet.

A few days ago, the Supreme Court was in search of an answer to the “perennial problem” between the two neighbours. It had mooted the idea of extending the powers of its own supervisory committee to take over charge of the safety and maintenance of the dam.

However, on Thursday, **Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati**, who is ap-

pearing for both the supervisory committee and the **Central Water Commission**, showed the court an alternative in the 2021 law and the NDSA.

“So, the Mullaperiyar dispute may be the first one to be handled under this Act?” Justice Khanwilkar asked Ms. Bhati. The Bench even wondered whether the supervisory committee should now continue as the 2021 Act has made it redundant.

However, Kerala said the Centre was yet to appoint specialists to the NDSA.

“When will this authority [NDSA] become functional?” Justice Khanwilkar addressed Ms. Bhati. The court asked Ms. Bhati to give a detailed note by Tuesday on the Act and the responsibilities of the NDSA.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Panacea	(Noun): a solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases.	रामबाण
Perennial	(Adjective): lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time; enduring or continually recurring.	चिरस्थायी
Postulate	(Verb): suggest or assume the existence, fact, or truth of (something) as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or belief.	दावा करना

Static News

Dam Safety Act 2021: An Act to provide for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of the specified dam for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for an institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar is a Judge of the Supreme Court of India and the former Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court and Himachal Pradesh High Court.

National Dam Safety Authority was formed to discharge the powers and functions of the National Authority under the said Act on 18th February, 2022.

Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala It is located 881 m above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, India

Grammar

ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVES: An attributive adjective modifies a noun, and comes before that noun, in the first position. They are called "attributive" because they tell the qualities or attributes of nouns. It is possible to leave attribute adjectives out of the sentence - they are optional additions.

Examples:

*He was carrying two big cardboard boxes.

*Sweet, ripe, red strawberries are my favourite!



Blue Represents the Vocabulary



Yellow Represents the Static News



Red Represents the Grammar

Butterfly tracking goes up a notch in Kerala

Hundreds of Danaine butterflies tagged to track their migratory path towards Eastern Ghats

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

Hundreds of **Danaine butterflies**, also known as **milkweed butterflies**, have been tagged by a group of butterfly enthusiasts in **Wayanad** to track their migratory movement towards the eastern side of southern India from the Western Ghats.

FERNS, a nature conservation society in Wayanad, has launched the programme as a part of a citizen-science programme **'Danaine Watch'**.

Every year, millions of Danaine butterflies undertake the journey. Six species of milkweed butterflies have been found in the migratory swarms. It is believed that they fly from the Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats



Butterfly enthusiasts in Wayanad tagging Danaine butterflies to track their migratory movement. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and eastern plains during March and April, before the southwest **monsoon**.

The **reverse migration** happens before the north-east monsoon gains momentum in the Eastern Ghats, from September to November. This migration is be-

lieved to help the butterflies avoid heavy rains.

Danaine Watch began in 2018 and, initially, volunteers followed the migrating butterflies on vehicles to track the mysterious routes. The **endeavour** revealed that the butterflies began their

journey from the Western Ghats, reached the **Erode forests**, **MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary**, and the **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary** in four days. Their further movement is still a mystery.

This year, hundreds of butterflies have been tagged from the Western Ghats to track their migratory movements. Butterfly tags are tiny stickers attached to the underside of one of the hind wings. Each tag will have a unique code, which will help track the origins of the tagged butterflies if they are recaptured.

"Milkweed butterflies are ideal candidates for citizen science projects, for both practical and scientific reasons. From a practical perspective, the migrating milk-

weed butterfly swarms are impressive to the public because of their **sheer** numbers and colour. The effect the colourful swarms make in people's minds will move them to invest time and contribute their observations. These valuable observations can help better understand their migration and in conserving butterfly populations," says **M.A. Yathumon**, coordinator of Danaine Watch.

It is for the first time migrating butterflies are being tagged as part of a citizen science initiative in India, says P.A. Vinayan, researcher in charge of Danaine Watch. "The number of butterflies in the congregations we monitor in the Western Ghats have drastically declined this season," he says.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Endeavour	(Noun): earnest, prolonged, and industrious effort.	प्रयास
Sheer	(Adjective): nothing other than; unmitigated (used for emphasis). (Adverb): completely; right (Verb): avoid or move away from an unpleasant topic.	निरा

Static News

Danainae is a subfamily of the family Nymphalidae, the brush-footed butterflies. It includes the Daniadae, or milkweed butterflies, who lay their eggs on various milkweeds on which their larvae feed, as well as the clearwing butterflies, and the tellervini. Some 300 species of Danainae exist worldwide.

The forest areas in Erode District are under the control of the Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode. Out of total area of 2,27,675.20 ha., the Erode Forest Division consists of 82144.32 ha., Sathyamangalam Division consists of 88131.56 ha.

Grammar

USE OF NOUNS AS THE DIRECT OBJECT: An object is the person or thing that receives the action of the verb. It is the who or what that the subject does something to. Now, there are two types of Objects i.e. 'Direct' and 'Indirect' object. Direct object is the thing being acted upon i.e. the receiver of the action. A direct object answers the question 'what' or 'whom.' Finding the direct object is simple if we identify the subject and verb in a sentence.

Examples:

The engineer built a marvelous house.

(Here, engineer is the subject and built is the verb. Now, the answer to the question 'what did the engineer built?' is house. Therefore house is the direct object.)



Blue Represents the Vocabulary



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Areas under AFSPA reduced, says Amit Shah

In the State, the **AFSPA** was being removed from the jurisdiction of 15 police stations in seven districts but would remain active in 57 police stations in 13 districts. The decision was taken based on the committee's recommendation.

In Assam

In Assam, the AFSPA was being removed completely from 23 districts and one district would be covered partially under it.

In Manipur, 15 police station areas in six districts of Manipur would be excluded from the disturbed area notification but the law would remain effective in 82 police stations in 16 districts..

In Arunachal Pradesh, the **status quo** remained- the AFSPA would remain in force in two police stations of Namsai and Mahadevpur and three districts of Tirap, Changlang, Langding.

Bhalla's letter

On March 7, Union Home Secretary **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** wrote to the Chief Secretaries of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur seeking their views on the need to continue the disturbed areas declaration in the wake of the improved security situation.

Mr. Shah held a detailed

discussion with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland earlier this month. Mr. Bhalla held a videoconference with the Chief Secretaries of Manipur and Assam on March 22 after which the proposal of reduction in the disturbed areas in the two States was approved by the Home Minister.

Uprising in Naga Hills

The law first came into effect in 1958 to deal with the **uprising in the Naga Hills, followed by the insurgency in Assam.**

It gives unbridled power to the armed forces and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to kill anyone acting in contravention of law, arrest and search any premises without a warrant and protection from prosecution and legal suits without the Central government's sanction.

Currently, the Union Home Ministry issues periodic "disturbed area" notification to extend the AFSPA only for Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, where it is applicable in the districts of Tirap, Changlang, Longding and areas falling under Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations bordering Assam.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Status Quo	(Noun): the existing state of affairs, especially regarding social or political issues.	वर्तमान-स्थिति

Static News

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 is an act of the Parliament of India that grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas". According to the Disturbed Areas Act, 1976 once declared 'disturbed', the area has to maintain status quo for a minimum of 6 months.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla is the current Home Secretary of India, assumed the office on 23 August 2019, succeeding Rajiv Gauba. He is a senior IAS officer of 1984 batch. from Assam Meghalaya cadre. He received a one-year extension on August 12, 2021

In 1951, the Naga National Council Nation'. [12] There was a boycott of the first general election of 1952 which later extended to a boycott of government schools and officials. [13] In order to deal with the situation, the Assam government imposed the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Autonomous District) Act in the Naga Hills in 1953 and intensified police action against the rebels.

Grammar

DEPENDENT CLAUSE: A dependent clause cannot function on its own because it leaves an idea or thought unfinished. It is also called subordinate clause. Dependent clauses help the independent clauses complete the sentence. A dependent clause alone cannot form a complete sentence. The subordinators do the work of connecting the dependent clause to another clause to complete the sentence. In each of the dependent clause, the first word is a subordinator. Subordinators include relative pronouns, subordinating conjunctions, and noun clause markers.

Examples:

When I was dating Daina, I had an accident.

I know the man who stole the watch.



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Vocabulary



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the Static News



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Grammar

Sizzling heat to continue: IMD

Most parts of Northwest, Central and Northeast India to be affected

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Summer temperatures in Northwest, Central and parts of Northeast India are likely to be higher than normal, according to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. This **implies** a continuing trend of heatwaves and elevated temperatures that have been characteristic of much of March in northern and western India.

"During April, normal to above normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of Northwest, Central and Northeast India. Normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely over the southern peninsular India, eastern parts of Central India and extreme southern part of Northeast India," the agency said in a statement on Thursday.

Temperatures in March were higher than normal, particularly in Gujarat, Rajasthan and several parts of northern India. Multiple heatwaves were reported this month.



Scorching heat: Tourists using umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun, during their visit to the Taj Mahal, in Agra. •PTI

The maximum temperatures were above normal by **four to seven degrees Celsius** in many places over Rajasthan, western Uttar Pradesh, some parts over Madhya Pradesh and in isolated places over Uttarakhand, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Gujarat and central Maharashtra.

"Heatwave" to "severe heatwave" conditions were observed in most parts of Rajasthan, Delhi, and isolated pockets of South Haryana.

There were also **scorching** temperatures reported out of Himachal Pradesh, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, parts of Jammu and western Uttar Pradesh.

Heatwave conditions

A region is considered to be under the grip of a heatwave if the maximum temperature reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius or more in the plains and at least 30 degrees or more in the hilly regions. When the maximum temper-

ature is 4.5 to 6 degrees above average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) declares a heatwave.

A severe heatwave is declared when the recorded maximum temperature is over 6.4 degrees from from normal.

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said that the summers in 2021 were hotter than last year and this was due to the absence of rains.

Below normal pre-monsoon rain was reported in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and North West India.

"Several parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra reported temperatures exceeding over 6-7 degrees of the normal. There were no western disturbances (rain-bearing systems from West Asia) and warm winds are blowing from Pakistan into the Indo-Gangetic plains." Mr. Mohapatra added that temperatures would reduce marginally over the next few days but heatwave-like conditions are expected to continue.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Imply	(Verb): Indicate the truth or existence of (something) by suggestion rather than explicit reference	संकेत करना
Scorching	(Adjective): (of criticism) harsh; severe.	जलानेवाला

Static News

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology. IMD is headquartered in Delhi and operates hundreds of observation stations across India and Antarctica. Regional offices are at Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur, Guwahati and New Delhi. It was established in 1875.

The IMD is headed by the Director General of Meteorology, currently Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

In India, Phalodi in Rajasthan holds the record for highest temperature measured ever. Phalodi, near Pokharan, recorded the temperature of 51-degree Celsius or 123.8-degree Fahrenheit on May 19, 2001.

Grammar

CONJUNCTIONS: Golden Rule

Always use the correct pair

No sooner.....than

Hardly.... when or before

Scarcely.... when or before

Barely.... when or before

EXAMPLE: No sooner had he solved the riddle than he was applauded.

Hardly had I come out of the room before I saw him dying.

Scarcely had he asked the question when Agnes slapped him.

Barely had he bought the car before it was stolen.

Hardly, scarcely, and barely are negative words. Do not use not, no, never with the clause containing these words. If a sentences starts with a negative word, use inversion form i.e. helping verb before the subject.



Blue Represents the Vocabulary



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Decoding The Hindu Article

'Review IAS aspirants' plea in 2 weeks'

SC uses panel report to **nudge** govt. to re-examine demand for another chance

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave the Union government two weeks' time to reconsider afresh the demand made for another chance to write the **civil services examinations** made by aspirants who were unable to appear for their Main examination in January after falling ill with COVID-19.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee report of March 24 that had recommended the government to grant such candidates an extra attempt and corresponding age relaxation.

Govt.'s stand

The stand of the government before the court and the parliamentary commit-



tee had been that giving another chance to these candidates would risk **havoc** and was not feasible.

But the committee had persisted in favour of the candidates in Parliament, urging the government to remember the "untold agony and **insurmountable** sufferings" the pandemic had caused many in the past two years. It recounted how the "whole of India had come to

a standstill, lives and livelihoods got disrupted and the student community was also adversely affected".

"Keeping in view the hardships faced by the student community during the first and second COVID waves, the committee recommends the government to change its mind and sympathetically consider the demand of Civil Services Exams aspirants and grant an extra attempt with corresponding age relaxation to all candidates," the panel report had said.

On Thursday, the court, by putting the government on a two-week deadline, made sure the parliamentary committee's efforts at **persuasion** did not hit a wall.

"The government's regulation was that people with COVID-19 should not step

out. We obeyed. We could have kept quiet, gone and written our exams and infected everyone. We did the right thing... Now we want the government to do the right thing by us," senior advocate **Gopal Sankaranarayanan**, for the candidates, argued. Advocate **Prashant Bhushan** said these were candidates who had passed the preliminary exam. Very few get through to the main stage. "They should not lose their opportunity just because they fell ill," he argued.

In a recent affidavit, the **Department of Personnel and Training** informed the court that it was "not feasible to change the existing provisions regarding the number of attempts and age-limit in respect of the civil services examination".

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Nudge	(Verb): prod (someone) gently with one's elbow in order to attract attention.	कुहनी से हलका धक्का
Havoc	(Noun): great confusion or disorder.	तबाही
Insurmountable	(Adjective): too great to be overcome.	अति कठिन
Persuasion	(Noun): the action or process of persuading someone or of being persuaded to do or believe something.	प्रोत्साहन

Static News

The Indian Civil Service (ICS), officially known as the Imperial Civil Service, was the higher civil service of the British Empire in India during British rule in the period between 1858 and 1947. The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is the administrative arm of the All India Services of Government of India.[3] Considered the premier central civil service of India,[3][4] the IAS is one of the three arms of the All India Services along with the Indian Police Service and the Indian Forest Service.

The Civil Services Examination is based on the British era Imperial Civil Service tests, as well as the civil service tests conducted by old Indian empires such as the Mauryan Empire and Mughal Empire. It started in year 1922.

Grammar

ROYAL RULE OF PREPOSITION– When verbs are placed after prepositions (other than 'to') , they should be in the gerund form (v1+ ing) except when they are used in infinitive form.

EXAMPLES:

Mohit insisted on going to Mumbai.

P. V. Sindhu was confident of winning the tournament.

I don't believe in wasting time.

Note – The following phrases end in 'to' and are followed by 'ing' form of verb (gerund). Be used to, accustomed to, averse to, addicted to, look forward to, with a view to , owing to, devoted to, in addition to, object to, taken to, prone to.

Examples:

I am looking forward to meet her. ✗

I am looking forward to meeting her. ✓

Decoding The Hindu Article

China, Pak., Afghanistan agree to boost three-way ties

Chinese Foreign Minister calls for extending China Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

China on Thursday said it would deepen three-way cooperation with Afghanistan and Pakistan as the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in eastern China.

“Under the current circumstances, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan should restart the trilateral cooperation mechanism and advance cooperation in the three areas of politics, development and security based on the principles of mutual respect, equal-footed consultation and mutual benefit,” **Foreign Minister Wang Yi** said following talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister **Shah Mahmood Qureshi** and Acting Foreign Minister of Taliban government **Amir**

Khan Muttaqi.

China on Wednesday and Thursday hosted the third summit of Foreign Ministers from Afghanistan’s neighbouring countries, including China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, part of a new dialogue **mechanism championed** by Beijing and Islamabad. India has not been invited to the three meetings.

In a letter to the summit, hosted in eastern Anhui province, China’s President Xi Jinping pledged to back Afghanistan’s development, saying China was “committed to supporting its **pursuit** of peace, stability and development” with the country coming “to a critical point of transition from chaos to order.”



Wang Yi, centre, hosting a meeting with Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Amir Khan Muttaqi in Anhui province. • AP

The Ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan met separately on the sidelines of the conference, and underlined their close ties. Shortly before the Taliban’s return to power in August last year, China and Pakistan decided to align their Afghanistan strategies and follow a joint approach. Both countries have since sought closer rela-

tions with the Taliban government.

Mr. Wang said the three sides should “jointly **advance Belt and Road cooperation** and extend the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan**, and help Afghanistan participate in **regional connectivity**.”

The Foreign Ministers of the seven neighbouring

countries, in a joint statement, issued a thinly-veiled criticism of the United States, saying they “urged countries mainly responsible for the current predicament in Afghanistan to **earnestly** fulfil commitments on the economic recovery and future development of Afghanistan.” They also expressed “deep concern” over the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Agreeing to hold their fourth summit next year in Tashkent, they also launched a new mechanism for regular consultations among their special representatives for Afghanistan and the setting up of working groups for political and diplomatic issues, economic and humanitarian matters, and security.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Mechanism	(Noun): a natural or established process by which something takes place or is brought about.	तंत्र
Earnestly	(Adverbs): with sincere and intense conviction; seriously.	ज़ोर देकर
Pursuit	(Noun): the action of pursuing someone or something.	काम

Static News

Wang Yi is a senior Chinese diplomat and politician currently serving as the Foreign Minister since 2013 and State Councilor since 2018.

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi is a Pakistani politician who is the 29th and current minister of Foreign Affairs since 20 August 2018.

Amir Khan Muttaqi is an Afghan Taliban politician serving as acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan since 7 September 2021. He was also a member of the negotiation team in the Qatar office

The Belt and Road Initiative , formerly known as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations and status.

Grammar

There are a few interesting linguistic facts about preposition.

First, they are a closed class of words which means no new preposition gets added to the language. We use a fixed set of prepositions.

Second, prepositions do not have any other form. They cannot be plural, possessive, inflection, or anything else.

Third, most of the prepositions have many different contextual and natural uses. So, it is easy to be confused about preposition.

Fourth, sometimes a preposition works as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.

Blue Represents the
Vocabulary

Yellow Represents
the Static News

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Grammar

Core sector output rises 5.8%

Economists cite low base effect; output shrank 5.3% from January's level

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's core sector output grew at the fastest pace in four months at 5.8% in February, with six of eight sectors registering growth. Crude oil and fertiliser production fell 2.2% and 1.4% year-on-year, respectively.

Economists attributed February's numbers largely to the base effect, as output had contracted 3.3% in February 2021. In fact, the overall index of eight core industries released on Thursday revealed a 5.3% contraction from the level in January, with all sectors shrinking month-on-month. Output grew 4% in January.

Cement, for instance, grew 5% compared with February 2021, but output was 4.4% lower than in January



Slippery path: The core sector performance hints at February IIP likely having risen less than 2.5%, says Nayar. •REUTERS

2022. Similarly, refinery products' output was up 8.8%, but 7.3% lower than the preceding month.

Steel production grew for the second month in a row after contracting in December, rising 5.7% in February. Electricity generation grew

4%, while natural gas and coal output grew 12.5% and 6.6%, respectively.

The continued contraction in crude oil and fertilisers, and sharp moderation in cement output growth cast a sobering note, said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar,

who estimated the index of industrial production (IIP) to have risen less than 2.5% in February. The core sectors account for about 40% of IIP.

'Long way to go'

Economists at India Ratings and Research Sunil K. Sinha and Paras Jasrai observed that production of crude oil, refinery products and fertilisers were still below their pre-pandemic levels.

"Production of other core segments are also just above the pre-COVID level... there is still a long way to go so far as revival of core sectors' output is concerned and the disruption to global supply chains may further impinge on the availability of key raw materials like natural gas and coal in the domestic market," they said.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Attribute	(Verb): regard something as being caused by.	गुण
Sobering	(Adjective): creating a more serious, sensible, or solemn mood.	बुद्धिमत्ता
Disruption	(Noun): disturbance or problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process.	व्यवधान

Static News

ICRA Limited is an Indian independent and professional investment information and credit rating agency. It was established in 1991, and was originally named Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited

Aditi Nayar is principal economist, ICRA Limited. Post-pandemic spending for recovery.

Grammar

We do not use an object in the passive sentences if in active sentences the subject is unknown or is not required to be written i.e. it is understood from the very sentence like someone, somebody, nobody, people etc.

Active: Someone has stolen has my watch.

Passive: My watch has been stolen. (herein it is no need to write 'someone' or mention the object.)



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Vocabulary



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Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

Indian squad gears up for Billie Jean King Cup

Sowjanya replaces injured Karman Kaur; team scheduled to leave on April 7 for the competition

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It will be a tough challenge for the Indian women's tennis team to qualify for the **World Group playoff** in the **Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania competition**, but captain **Vishaal Uppal** preferred to remain optimistic.

The Indian team, spearheaded by the 323rd-ranked **Ankita Raina**, will be without the services of **Karman Kaur** Thandi owing to a wrist injury. She has been replaced by the 649th-ranked Sowjanya Bavisetti, as Zeel Desai and Y. Pranjala were unable to capitalise on the chance.

Sania boost
Riya Bhatia (457) and Rutuja Bhosale (516) will be the other members of the team,

which will have Sania Mirza to **bolster** the doubles combination.

The team is scheduled to leave on April 7 for the competition on clay in Antalya from April 12 to 18.

"Ankita will join us on the eighth. Sania will also join us on the eighth if she doesn't play the **Charleston tournament**," said Vishaal.

Two teams from the six-team group will qualify for the play-offs and two teams **relegated** to group-2. Even without the 43rd-ranked Shuai Zhang, China will be the best with three top players Qinwen Zheng (72), Qiang Wang (101) and Lin Zhu (109).

Japan will be without Naomi Osaka (77) and Misaki Doi (93), but will have Mai Hontama (129) and Yuki Naito (229). Korea will comprise



Looking ahead: Ankita Raina and Sania Mirza with coach Cesar Ferrer-Victoria in Dubai. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sujeong Jang (179) and Na-Lae Han (210) as its leading players. Indonesia with Aldila Sutjiadi (353) and New Zealand with Paige Hourigan

(443) as main players may not be that strong in terms of ranking.

Brushing aside the relative strengths of the teams, Vish-

 We are a dangerous side and we can beat any team on a given day

VISHAAL UPPAL
India captain

aal said the Indian team would strive to give its best.

Ready for the challenge
"We cannot take any team lightly or fear any team. We are a dangerous side and we can beat any team on a given day. All the teams are tough and every tie will be very challenging. If we can execute our plans well, I am sure we can cause a few upsets and qualify again," said the captain.

India had qualified for the first time on its last attempt in 2020 and lost the playoff 1-3 to Latvia last year in Jurmala.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Bolster	(Verb): support or strengthen.	आधार
Relegated	(Verb): assign an inferior rank or position to.	चला

Static News

The Billie Jean King Cup is the premier international team competition in women's tennis, launched as the Federation Cup in 1963 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Tennis Federation.

Ankita Ravinderkrishan Raina is an Indian professional tennis player. Raina has won one title on the WTA Tour and one at WTA 125 tournaments, along with 11 singles and 19 doubles titles on the ITF Circuit.

Karman Kaur Thandi is an Indian tennis player. Thandi has career-high WTA rankings of 196 in singles, as of 20 August 2018, and No. 180 in doubles, as of 14 January 2019

The Credit One Charleston Open, formerly known as the Volvo Car Open and the Family Circle Cup, is a WTA Tour-affiliated professional tennis tournament for women, held every year since 1973. It is the oldest professional all-women's tournament in America with a \$565,530 purse

Grammar

If the reporting verb is in the past tense, then the reported verb will be changed per the following criterion:

Present indefinite tense is changed into past indefinite tense. For example:

Direct Speech: They said, "They take a walk every day."

Indirect Speech: They said that they took a walk every day.



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U.S. Deputy NSA warns India of ‘consequences’

Daleep Singh cautions against trade deals with Russia

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

There will be “consequences” for any country, including India, that conducts local currency transactions through Russia’s central bank or constructs a payment mechanism that **subverts** or **circumvents** the United States’ sanctions against Russia, American Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics Daleep Singh said in New Delhi on Thursday, hours before Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov landed.

Mr. Lavrov is due to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday, and is expected to brief them on the war in Ukraine, peace talks, keeping defence supplies running and alternative payment mechanisms in the face of Western sanctions.

In a first for the U.S. administration, Mr. Singh also publicly stated that India must not expect that Russia, as a “junior partner” of China, would assist India if there were more **incursions** along



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla with U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh. •PTI

the Line of Actual Control.

“I come here in a spirit of friendship to explain the mechanisms of our sanctions, the importance of joining us, to express a shared resolve and to advance shared interests. And yes, there are consequences to countries that actively attempt to **circumvent or backfill the sanctions**,” Mr. Singh told journalists between his official meetings.

“We are very keen for all countries, especially our allies and partners, not to create mechanisms that

prop up the [Russian] rouble, and those that attempt to undermine the dollar based financial system,” he stated in reply to a question from *The Hindu*.

Bank officials’ meeting

This week, officials of the **Bank of Russia**, the country’s central bank, met Reserve Bank of India officials to discuss alternative payment mechanisms and routing through banks that are immune to international sanctions, and Mr. Jaishankar told Parliament that a special inter-ministerial group led by the Finance Ministry had been tasked with resolving the payment issues for import and export with Russia caused by the sanctions.

When asked how India’s ties with Russia could affect its partnership with the U.S. in the Quad, Mr. Singh said there was a “shared recognition in the Quad that China is a strategic threat to a free open and secure Indo-Pacific.”

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Circumvents	(Verb): overcome (a problem or difficulty), typically in a clever and surreptitious way.	गतिरोध उत्पन्न
Incursions	(Noun): an invasion or attack, especially a sudden or brief one.	घुसपैठ
Prop	(Verb): support or keep in position (Noun): a person or thing that is a major source of support or assistance.	सहारा, आधार

Static News

Daleep Singh is an American economic advisor who is a Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics in the Biden administration. He has been characterized as an architect of the sanctions that the West implemented on Russia after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022

Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov is a Russian diplomat and politician who has served as the Foreign Minister of Russia since 2004. As a member of the United Russia party, he served as the Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations from 1994 to 2004.

The Central Bank of the Russian Federation, also known as the Bank of Russia, is the central bank of the Russian Federation, originally founded in 1860 as the State Bank of the Russian Empire. It is headquartered on Neglinnaya Street in Moscow.

Grammar

Subject – Verb Agreement: What this means is that the characteristics of the subject should be reflected in the verb. For example, if a subject is singular, the verb form must also be singular. The basic rule says that if two or more than two nouns or subjects are joined by 'and' but only a single person or thing or idea is discussed, singular verb will be used. In such situations, the nouns or subjects convey a singular meaning.

Examples: My friend, philosopher and guide have come. (We are talking about the same person here and therefore we need to change 'have' to 'has')



Blue Represents the Vocabulary



Yellow Represents the Static News



Red Represents the Grammar