

Decoding The Hindu Article

Russia suspended from rights council

India abstains from vote at UNGA

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Russia's membership to the Human Rights Council (HRC), to which it was elected in 2020, was suspended on Thursday after the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voted, 93 to 24, with 58 abstentions, including India, to adopt a resolution suspending Moscow from the UN body.

The resolution, 'Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council', was proposed by a group of countries that included Ukraine, the U.S., the EU, several Latin American countries and required a two-thirds majority of those present and voting for adoption. **Abstentions** do not count in the tally of those 'present and voting'. India abstained for reasons of "substance and process", its Permanent Representative to the UN (UNPR), **T.S. Tirumurti**, said.

India's stand

"We firmly believe that all decisions should be taken



The Russian delegation reacts to the vote at the General Assembly. • REUTERS

and structures enjoin us to do so. This applies to international organisations as well, particularly the United Nations," Mr. Tirumurti said during his 'Explanation of Vote' speech at the UNGA.

The U.S., which has had an uneven relationship with the HRC itself (having quit it under the Trump administration only to rejoin it last year) had been a driving force behind the resolution.

"If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace. And it is for an immediate end to violence," Mr. Tirumurti said, calling for diplomacy.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Abstentions	(Noun): an instance of declining to vote for or against a proposal or motion.	परिहार

Static News

The United Nations Human Rights Council is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world. The Council has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis. The headquarters of the Council are in Geneva, Switzerland.

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, serving as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. Currently it is in its 76th session.

President – Abdulla Shahid

T. S. Tirumurti is an Indian civil servant who belongs to the Indian Foreign Service cadre. He is currently the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Grammar

The type 2 conditional refers to an unlikely or hypothetical condition and its probable result. These sentences are not based on the actual situation. In type 2 conditional sentences, the time is now or any time and the situation is hypothetical.

Examples: If the weather wasn't so bad, we would go to the park. (But the weather is bad so we can't go.)

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Decoding The Hindu Article

HC pulls up Delhi govt. over autos, e-rickshaws plying without papers

Petitioner seeks removal of old autos and e-rickshaws from city roads

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday came down heavily on the city government for failing to act against e-rickshaws and autos plying on roads without fitness and registration certificates.

"We are amazed as to how the respondent [Delhi government's Transport Department] is permitting plying of e-rickshaws and autos whose fitness certificate and registration respectively have expired," a Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla said.

The High Court was hearing a petition by autorickshaw driver Ajit Kumar, represented by advocate Vishal Khanna, seeking to remove old autorickshaws from



A passenger boarding an e-rickshaw. • FILE PHOTO

roads either by scrapping them or by enforcing the replacement scheme applicable to autorickshaws.

Responding to the petition, the Delhi government said according to 'Vahan 4.0', within the cap of one lakh fixed by the Supreme Court, 92,849 autorickshaws are registered with the govern-

ment, of which permits of 9,451 have expired and not renewed yet. The Vahan 4.0 is a vehicle registration portal under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Permit renewal

"There could be a number of reasons behind not getting the permit renewed, like the auto met with an accident and declared total loss, dispute with the financier and court case pending, death of the registered owner of the TSR (three-wheeler scooter rickshaw) but due to no knowledge of getting the TSR transferred, stolen cases etc.," the Delhi government said in an affidavit.

It further said as per the Vahan 4.0 database, 1,10,430 e-rickshaws have been registered in the Capital, out of

which fitness certificates of 80,583 e-rickshaws have expired until December 22, 2021. The Enforcement Branch has prosecuted 2,199 such vehicles from January 1, 2019, to December 22, 2021, it said, adding that the execution process is likely to gain momentum once the pandemic is over.

Faulty e-rickshaws

Mr. Kumar claimed that e-rickshaws plying on roads without valid or renewed fitness certificates could lead to traffic congestion as they are known to break down easily. But the Delhi government said, "There is no such data available with the traffic police to establish that the large number of traffic jams are caused because of the faulty e-rickshaws".

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Plying	(Gerund): travel regularly over a route, typically for commercial purposes.	चलने वाली
Congestion	(Noun): so crowded with traffic or people as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement.	अतिप्रजन

Static News

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) rolled out a web-based software Vahan 4.0 which would ensure the registration of vehicles online.

The Directorate of Enforcement is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.

Agency executives: Sanjay Kumar Mishra, IRS, Director Enforcement; Simanchala Dash, IRS, Principal Special Director

Founded: 1 May 1956

Headquarter: New Delhi

Grammar

Gerunds are words that are formed with verbs but act as nouns. They're very easy to spot, since every gerund is a verb with "ing" tacked to its tail. There are no exceptions to this rule.

EXAMPLES:

Acting is fun. (The gerund is the subject of the sentence.)



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Decoding The Hindu Article

‘Criminal Procedure Bill will create foolproof system’

Delhi police say it will help in effective prosecution; privacy advocates, legal experts voice alarm over ambit of data collection

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI

A day after the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, was passed in the Rajya Sabha, senior Delhi police officers hailed the move saying it will create a “foolproof system” for criminal justice, which will help prosecute offenders and prevent any legal loopholes during arrests.

However, privacy advocates voiced alarm over the “overwhelming” powers being given to the police and expressed fear of “data manipulation” and “profiling” of persons accused of even petty offences.

The Bill authorises the police to collect, store and analyse biometric samples, including iris and retina scans, of convicts and “other criminals”.

It also authorises the police to take physical measurements of convicts and “other persons” for identification and investigation in criminal

matters.

The term “other persons” has not been defined in the Bill, implying that its ambit extends beyond convicts or arrested persons.

The Bill also empowers the National Crime Records Bureau to store physical and biological samples, signatures and handwriting samples for as long as 75 years.

A senior police officer, requesting anonymity, said: “Recording a criminal’s data after his or her arrest has been an integral part of the process, as we need it for his or her effective prosecution before the court... Data has always been at the centre of investigation and it helps us analyse an accused’s crime patterns.”

The safeguards

On the possibility of data manipulation, the officer said: “If an accused’s data is collected, then the content will be stored in a foolproof manner and chances of it leaking



Data has always been at the centre of investigation and it helps us analyse an accused’s crime patterns, say police. • FILE PHOTO

are zero.”

Explaining how fingerprints can help identify repeat offenders, a DCP-rank officer said: “If we arrest a person in a case of theft and his fingerprints match with fingerprints collected earlier in a similar case, it will help us in terming him a Bad Character of the area.”

“The dossier system captures all the basic details of

an accused such as biometrics, photographs, structure of face parts, vehicle registration, among others. The iris and retina scans and the physical and biological samples will aid the investigation further, and will help the police build a watertight case,” the officer said.

Another police officer, requesting anonymity, said the expansion of the powers in

The iris and retina scans and the physical and biological samples of the accused will aid the investigation further and help the police build a watertight case

DCP-RANK OFFICER

terms of collecting private data of a suspect or criminal will help the police arrest the right person by directly referring to the online database. “If the particulars of an accused are already saved in our records, it helps quicken the process and initiate effective prosecution,” the source said.

The criticism

Apar Gupta, Executive Director of Internet Freedom Foundation, said through the provision of the Bill, “profiling can be done where not only physical measurements are gathered but data points

are collected”.

He said the ambit of the data and from whom it can be gathered has been “expanded tremendously”.

“There are attributes and analysis based on biological data which are also being gathered now... Earlier, such kind of data was collected from people convicted of heinous crimes or under-trials when being released on a surety by the court for prosecution purposes. But now such data could be collected from persons accused of any other crime,” Mr. Gupta said.

Advocate Sarim Naved said there needs to be a mechanism laid out to ensure protection of the data collected.

“It has to be laid down that such digital records are not admissible evidence before court just like narco-analysis... Such data cannot be completely credible and there is always a chance of inaccuracy,” Mr. Naved said.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Ambit	(Noun): the scope, extent, or bounds of something.	सीमा
Surety	(Noun): a person who takes responsibility for another's performance of an undertaking, for example their appearing in court or paying a debt.	ज़मानत

Static News

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha on March 28, 2022. The Bill seeks to replace the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920.

The Bill permits the collection of certain identifiable information about individuals for the investigation of crime

Grammar

The infinitive form of a verb is the verb in its basic form. An infinitive is formed from a verb but doesn't act as a verb. The infinitive form of a verb is usually (but not always) preceded by "to" (e.g., "to run," "to dance," "to think").

EXAMPLES: I need to run every day.

(The infinitive form with the word "to" is called the "full infinitive" or "to-infinitive.")



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Process initiated to amend criminal laws, Minister tells RS

'Against 387 vacancies in various High Courts, 168 proposals being processed'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The process to amend the **Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Penal Code, and the Indian Evidence Act** for the purpose of creating a people-centric, affordable and speedy justice system has been initiated, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

In response to a separate query, the Law Minister also informed the House that as against 387 vacancies in various High Courts, 168 proposals are at various stages of processing between the government and the Supreme Court **collegium**.

In another written response, Mr. Rijiju told the Upper House that no election symbol, reserved or allotted by the Election Commission, shall be deemed as a religious or national symbol.

Talking about the pro-



Kiren Rijiju speaks in the Lok Sabha during the second part of Budget session of Parliament in New Delhi. •PTI

posed changes in the criminal laws, the Law Minister said that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had sought suggestions from Governors, Chief Ministers, Lt. Governors and administrators of Union Territories, Chief Justice of India, Chief Justices of High Courts, Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils and Members of Parliament.

Mr. Rijiju, in his written

response, also informed the House that a committee headed by the Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi, and four other members was constituted by the MHA on March 2, 2020 to suggest reforms in criminal laws.

After extensive stakeholders' consultation and research, the Committee submitted its recommendations on February 27, 2022 on the

three criminal laws – IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act.

In its 146th report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs had recommended that there was a need for a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system of the country, the Minister said.

On the issue of judicial appointments, the Law Minister said the sanctioned strength of judges of the 25 High Courts had increased from 906 in 2014 to 1,104 in 2022.

The Law Minister also said the Election Commission has said that election symbols are either reserved for national or State recognised political parties or allotted to unrecognised political parties under the provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Collegium	(Noun): an advisory or administrative board	कॉलेजियम

Static News

The Code of Criminal Procedure commonly called Criminal Procedure Code is the main legislation on procedure for administration of substantive criminal law in India. It was enacted in 1973 and came into force on 1 April 1974

The Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the official criminal code of India. It is a comprehensive code intended to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law. It was enacted on 6 October 1860

The Indian Evidence Act, originally passed in India by the Imperial Legislative Council in 1872, during the British Raj, contains a set of rules and allied issues governing admissibility of evidence in the Indian courts of law.

Grammar

A participle is a nonfinite verb form that has some of the characteristics and functions of both verbs and adjectives. Read the following sentence:

Hearing a loud noise, the boy woke up.

Here the word hearing qualifies the noun boy as an adjective does. It is formed from the verb hear and has an object – noise. The word hearing, therefore, has the properties of a verb and an adjective and is called a participle.



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Decoding The Hindu Article

India-U.S. 2+2 will discuss key issues, says MEA

Disagreement over New Delhi's position on Russia continues

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit the United States for the "2+2" dialogue with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in Washington DC on April 11, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Thursday.

The meeting will be held days after the U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh conveyed to

the Indian side that there would be "consequences" for continuing energy trade in local currency with Russia against the backdrop of Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine.

"The dialogue would enable both sides to undertake a comprehensive review of cross-cutting issues in the India-U.S. bilateral agenda related to foreign policy, defence and security with the objective of providing strategic guidance and vision for further consolidating the re-



lationship," the Ministry of External Affairs said. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to meet members of the Biden Administration during the visit.

The announcement from the U.S. State Department emphasised the role of de-

mocratic values and expanding defence partnership between the two sides covering areas such as cybersecurity and public health. It said, "The relationship between the world's largest democracies is built on a foundation of common values and resi-

lient democratic institutions, and the shared Indo-Pacific interests of a rules-based international order that safeguards sovereignty and territorial integrity, upholds human rights and expands regional and global peace and prosperity."

Mr. Austin said in a statement that the upcoming meeting would feature talks about the defence cooperation between the two sides for a "free and open Indo-Pacific region".

The upcoming meeting between the two sets of Ministers will be held against the backdrop of a series of comments from the United

States about India's continued neutrality in the face of Russian military operation against Ukraine.

Mr. Biden's top economic adviser Brian Deese has warned of "significant and long-term consequences" if India continued to pursue the current policy of purchasing energy from Russia despite western sanctions on the latter.

During the media briefing on Thursday, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi did not comment on what sort of consequences the U.S. could discuss with Indian diplomats.

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

Antony John Blinken is an American government official and diplomat serving as the 71st United States secretary of state since January 26, 2021. He previously served as deputy national security advisor from 2013 to 2015 and deputy secretary of state from 2015 to 2017 under President Barack Obama.

Brian Christopher Deese is an American economic and political advisor who is the 13th Director of the National Economic Council, serving under President Joe Biden. He also served as a senior advisor to President Barack Obama

Grammar

Stative verbs are verbs that express a state rather than an action. They usually relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being and measurements. The stative verbs are all expressing a state: A state of doubting, a state of believing, a state of wanting. These states of being are often temporary.

EXAMPLE:

The doctor disagrees with your analysis.

(Disagree is a stative verb here, as it describes the doctor's state of being – disagreement.)

Decoding The Hindu Article

Sri Lanka braces for more shortages

Amid plunging currency, traders seek urgent action to **avert** an 'economic catastrophe'

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The **plunging** Sri Lankan rupee, a political stalemate, and the coming holiday season, are threatening to further stall imports and impair supplies in the island nation battling one of its worst economic downturns.

On Thursday, the Sri Lankan rupee hit a new record low at 310 (roughly ₹79) to a U.S. dollar officially, signalling a steep fall in the span of a month. The buying and selling rates on the black market are about 400, according to traders.

Although the Sri Lankan rupee has been declining in value since the pandemic hit in 2020, it began dropping rapidly after March 7, when the Central Bank of Sri Lanka devalued it from LKR 200 to 230 against the American dollar, to allow for "greater flexibility" in exchange rate. The move was also deemed necessary to obtain support from the International Monetary Fund.

"In fact, the Sri Lankan ru-



People trying to get hold of biscuit packets as they wait to buy kerosene at a fuel station in Colombo. •REUTERS

pee has been hitting a record low every day after that," said Nisthar Cassim, Editor of the Colombo-based business newspaper *Daily Financial Times*. The rupee is "still struggling to find its level in the market", he observed, pointing to dwindling inflows by way of worker remittances, and larger bilateral borrowings that are yet to materialise.

For months now, Sri Lanka is grappling with severe shortages and high inflation amid an aggravating forex crisis. Citizens and profes-

sionals are taking to the streets in large numbers every day, in a show of rare, nationwide public outrage against the Rajapaksa administration. On Sunday, cabinet ministers and top officials stepped down, amid the massive wave of protests demanding that the President and the ruling clan immediately quit office for "failing" the country.

Already in the grip of an economic meltdown, Sri Lanka now faces a political conundrum, with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa refusing

to resign despite mounting calls, and the Opposition rejecting his offer to form a national cabinet under him.

It is this political **impasse** that is making the rupee plunge further this week, Mr. Cassim contended. As of Thursday, Sri Lanka does not have a Finance Minister, among other key Ministers and officials, following the spate of recent resignations.

"Given this political instability and market uncertainty, exporters are putting off conversion, and it's a double whammy for importers to cope with the sliding rupee and to actually find dollars which are not easily available," he told *The Hindu*. The importers' challenge, he anticipates, would soon translate to a severe shortage of essentials from food to medicines. "This is only the beginning of the shortages and high prices, as the rupee will remain under growing pressure."

The government has declared April 11 and 12 as public holidays, ahead of the

Sinhala and Tamil New Year holidays, one of the biggest festivals in Sri Lanka, effectively shutting down the country for the whole of next week. Traders and citizens fear the move might further impact supplies.

On Thursday, leading exporters, importers, and traders in Sri Lanka wrote to the Parliamentary Speaker, party leaders and lawmakers, seeking urgent action to avert an "economic catastrophe". They sought political stability by the end of the week, and "a pragmatic interim solution" from sitting MPs along with the executive branch to address the concerns of citizens that has led to a massive public uprising, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce said in a statement.

The Parliament convened on Thursday, as legislators debated the crisis for the second day. While those left in government – 42 MPs are sitting separately – sought to defend its moves, opposition MPs slammed the President for his crisis response.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Avert	(Verb): prevent or ward off (an undesirable occurrence).	टालना
Plunging	(Adjective): denoting a very low-cut neckline on a woman's garment.	जल्दी से आगे बढ़नेवाला
Impasse	(Noun): a situation in which no progress is possible, especially because of disagreement; a deadlock.	गतिरोध

Static News

2022 Sri Lankan protests

Date 16 March 2022 – present

Caused by: Economic mismanagement by the government resulting in the Sri Lankan economic crisis (2019–present), Powercuts, Shortages of fuel and essential items, High inflation and rapid rise of cost of living
Corruption and nepotism of the Rajapaksa family

Status : Ongoing, Declaration of state of emergency, Imposition of nationwide curfew, Restriction of social media access, Mass resignation of Second Gotabaya Rajapaksa cabinet, Rajapaksa government loses parliamentary simple majority

Grammar

A transitive verb is one whose action must be used in relation to an object, also called as direct object, and when using the verb, it only makes sense if the verb is transferring action upon an object. That means the verb doesn't sound good or work on its own without an object. In other words, the action of a transitive verb is done to someone or something.

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Decoding The Hindu Article

GatiShakti, PLI will offset global headwinds, spur growth: FinMin

'Impact of geopolitical tensions on food, fertilizer, oil prices clouding prospects'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

GatiShakti and the production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes will offset global headwinds and drive investment, resulting in high post-recovery growth for the Indian economy, the Finance Ministry said in a report.

Geopolitical conflicts and their consequent impact on food, fertilizer and crude oil prices cast a cloud on the growth outlook globally, the Ministry observed in its monthly Economic Review.

India may feel its impact although the magnitude will, of course, depend on how long the dislocations in energy and food markets persist in the financial year and how



Pump priming: GatiShakti, PLI schemes will drive investment thus helping deliver high growth, says FinMin. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

resilient India's economy is to mitigate the impact, the Ministry pointed out, adding that transient shocks may not have a big effect on real growth and inflation.

"Offsetting these potential headwinds, GatiShakti and

Production Linked Incentive Schemes will drive investment, which will combine with supply chains strengthened by structural reforms... years to deliver high post-recovery growth for the Indian economy," it said.

With growing evidence of improving labour force participation and declining unemployment rate, and the 'government's commitment to provide support' to the economically poor, the growth path ahead would likely be a more inclusive one, the Ministry said.

PMI Services had also stayed in the expansionary zone for eight months on the back of e-toll collection, e-waybills, railway freight and air cargo, among others, complementing the robust manufacturing sector, the Ministry noted.

Private consumption may be beginning to perk up, it said, adding UPI transaction values had doubled in FY22.

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Transient	(Adjective): lasting only for a short time; impermanent.	क्षणिक

Static News

Prime Minister launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

PLI: The scheme offers financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain. Bidding for this scheme closed on 9 January 2022

Grammar

All forms of be verbs are linking verbs. For example: are, am, is, were, was etc. Besides, verbs that have to do with the five senses are linking verbs: feel, look, smell, sound and taste.

So we come to the point that linking verb is not an action verb. It tells about what the subject is not what it's doing. For example: Sneha's cat is tired, here shows the condition of Sneha's cat, not what it's doing. So here "is" is working as a linking verb.



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