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NDA ELECTS MODI AS ITS LEADER, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND NO CONFIDENCE MOTION

INDIA decides to keep doors open for Naidu, Nitish



Upbeat camp: Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Sanjay Raut, Akhilesh Yadav and other leaders of the INDIA bloc at Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Calling the June 4 results a mandate against the Narendra Modi government, the INDIA bloc, at the end of a two-hour meeting at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence here on Wednesday, said it would take "appropriate steps" to realise the people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP government. At the meeting, 33 leaders from 21 parties said that while doors should be kept open for the TDP, led by N. Chandrababu Naidu, and their erstwhile ally the Janata Dal(U) of Nitish Kumar, the bloc will be patient for the right opportunity. It was agreed that the allies should remain vigilant whenever the

BJP government moves a confidence motion in Parliament, which could possibly offer them an opening. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, according to sources, opined that the bloc has been successful in demolishing "Brand Modi". Mr. Yadav also advised the allies to remain flexible and accommodative to keep the bloc united. Trinamool Congress's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was the only one to claim that a few elected BJP MPs are in touch with his party. There were a few feeble comments on necessity for a convener, but this conversation did not dominate the discourse.

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NDA elects Modi as its leader; talks with allies to begin soon

Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nadda to meet partners on the contours of the new coalition government; NDA parliamentary party meeting to be held on June 7; swearing-in likely over the weekend; TDP chief reportedly demands Central aid for A.P.

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The process of forming a new government led by Narendra Modi was set in motion on Wednesday, with the parties of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) unanimously passing a resolution electing him their leader at a meeting at the Prime Minister's official residence.

In all, 21 NDA leaders signed the resolution, which appreciated Mr. Modi's efforts in nation-building, welfare of the poor, and development, adding that they were all partners in that effort.

"After a very long gap, of almost six decades, the people of India have chosen a powerful leader with an absolute majority for the third consecutive time," the resolution read.

"We NDA leaders unanimously choose Narendra Modi as our leader," it said.

The meeting was attended by BJP president J.P. Nadda, BJP leaders Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, and the BJP's allies, including Janata Dal(U) chief Nitish Kumar, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu, Shiv



Show of strength: Narendra Modi with NDA allies at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Sena chief Eknath Shinde, Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, and Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar faction) leader Praful Patel.

President Droupadi Murmu dissolved the 17th Lok Sabha on Wednesday after the recommendation of the Union Cabinet.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister tendered his resignation, along with his Council of Ministers, to the President.

She accepted the resignation and requested that Mr. Modi and his Council of Ministers continue until

the new government assumes office.

The path for government formation is being prepared, with a meeting of the NDA parliamentary party scheduled for June 7 to allow the alliance's MPs to endorse the resolution, after which Mr. Modi will stake claim to form the government before the President.

Mediation time

With the BJP falling 32 seats short of a full majority on its own in the Lok Sabha, the distribution of Ministries and the shape of the new coalition government will require some mediation. According to

sources, Mr. Singh, Mr. Shah and Mr. Nadda will hold meetings with alliance partners to hammer out the details.

Mr. Modi's swearing-in will likely take place over the weekend.

"The Prime Minister Modi has a preference for June 9, but that is also the day that Chandrababu Naidu wanted his own oath-taking ceremony [as CM of Andhra Pradesh], so either of them could move the date," said a source.

Mr. Naidu met BJP leader Piyush Goyal for half an hour after the NDA meeting, with sources saying that Mr. Naidu's "asks" revolved around Central aid

for Andhra Pradesh which, he said, was in dire straits financially.

"The alliance is strong. All are on board. We are still working out a formula for Ministerial berths, etc.," said a senior BJP leader involved in the negotiations.

Mr. Naidu spoke to journalists after the meetings, reiterating that he was "firmly" with the NDA. "Where is the doubt?" he said, when asked about the INDIA bloc's repeated assertions that he was an unreliable ally in the NDA.

JD(U) leader Rajeev Ranjan Singh also released a statement stating that his party stood with the NDA "like a rock".

Confidence Motion:

- ❖ It is passed when the governments formed with wafer-thin majority have been called upon by the President to prove their majority on the floor of the House
- ❖ Passage indicates the government's continued mandate to govern

What is no confidence motion?

- ❖ In a parliamentary democracy, a government can be in power only if it commands a majority in the directly elected House.
- ❖ It is a parliamentary process that allows the opposition to challenge the government's majority.
- ❖ If the no-confidence motion is passed in the Parliament, then the government must resign.



- ❖ Article 75(3) of our Constitution embodies this rule by specifying that the Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ For testing this collective responsibility, the rules of Lok Sabha provide a particular mechanism – a motion of no-confidence.
- ❖ A no confidence motion can only be moved in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The procedure is specified under Rule 198 of the Lok Sabha. The Constitution does not mention either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion.

Who can move a No-Confidence Motion?

- ❖ Any Lok Sabha MP, who can garner the support of 50 colleagues, can, at any point of time, introduce a motion of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers.
- ❖ A no-confidence motion can be moved only in the Lok Sabha. It cannot be moved in the Rajya Sabha.

Question:

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding a No-Confidence Motion in India.

1. There is no mention of a No-Confidence motion in the Constitution of India.
2. A motion of no-confidence can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 2
- (b) Neither 1 nor 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Only 1

Answer: (c)

Q.2 With reference to No-Confidence Motion, consider the following statements:

1. A No-Confidence Motion should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
2. It can be moved against the entire council of ministers as well as against an individual minister.
3. If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from the office.

Which are wrong statements?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (a)



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2024



World Environment Day 2024

- ❖ World Environment Day is celebrated on 5th June every year to encourage awareness and environmental protection.
 - ☛ The United Nations Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972, which was the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the human environment.
 - ☛ World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated every year with a specific theme and slogan that focuses on the major environmental issues of that time.
- ❖ WED 2024 is hosted by Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ India hosted the 45th celebration of World Environment Day in 2018 under the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
 - ☛ WED celebration in 2021 kicked off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) which is a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the seas.
- ❖ The theme for 2024:
 - ☛ Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience
 - ☛ Year 2024 also marks the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- ❖ Significance of Land Restoration:
 - ☛ Reverses Environmental Damage: Combats land degradation, drought, and desertification.
 - ☛ High Return on Investment: Each dollar invested can yield up to USD 30 in benefits from healthy ecosystems.



- Boosts Communities: Creates jobs, reduces poverty, and improves livelihoods.
- Strengthens Resilience: Helps communities better withstand extreme weather events.
- Combats Climate Change: Increases carbon storage in soil and slows the pace of warming.
- Protects Biodiversity: Restoring just 15% of degraded land could prevent a significant portion of expected species extinction.

Question:

Q.3 With reference to the World Environment Day, consider the following statements:

1. It is led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. In 2024, World Environment Day is being hosted by Saudi Arabia, with a focus on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

❖ FYI:

- World Environment Day is led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is celebrated on June 5 every year to raise awareness about degrading environmental conditions and to encourage people globally to take positive environmental actions, to help create a better future. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - In 2024, World Environment Day is being hosted by Saudi Arabia, with a focus on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - People from over 150 nations take part in this United Nations worldwide day, which honours environmental action and the capacity of governments, businesses, and individuals to create a more sustainable world.
- ❖ Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.



INDIA'S FIRST BIOSPHERE IN A TIGER RESERVE

World Environment Day: Environmentalists Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana create India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve

Meet the duo behind India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve, and another atop the Western Ghats

Updated – June 05, 2024 12:43 pm IST Published – June 05, 2024 08:49 am IST



NIDHI ADLAKHA



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Situated within the Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand, the biosphere overlooks the rocky white Raghathi riverbed | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

About a decade ago, New Delhi-based entrepreneur Jai Dhar Gupta became a clean air activist when he was diagnosed with bronchial asthma. His motive was to spread knowledge about the need to ensure our cities breathe easy. He was also on the air pollution think tank of the Delhi Government (wherein he helped bring into effect the odd-even rule for vehicles).

Over the past few years, Jai has been working on yet another project: creating India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve. "Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB) is a 35-acre private forest initiative led by ecologist Vijay Dhasmana, who is known for restoring the Aravalli landscapes, and me. We have identified rare and endangered species of native trees and are attempting to revive them, and protect the area from poachers and mining," says the 51-year-old.

India's First Biosphere in a Tiger Reserve:

- ❖ Recently two environmentalists, Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana created India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve, called the Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB) within the Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The biosphere is a 35-acre private forest initiative aimed at identifying and reviving rare and endangered species of native trees while protecting the area from poachers and mining.
- ❖ The land earmarked for RRB was previously barren and in a state of degradation.
- ❖ They are also developing a second biosphere above the Koyna River in the buffer zone of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve near Pune, Maharashtra, along the Western Ghats.

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YEAR 2024 MARKS 30 YEARS OF UNCCD

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

- ❖ It was established in 1994
- ❖ It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- ❖ The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, known as the dryland, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found
- ❖ The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- ❖ The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.
- ❖ The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.
- ❖ The UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions—The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ❖ India for the first time hosted the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019

Question:

Q.4 What is/are the importance/importances of the 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification'? (2016)

1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive international partnerships.
2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portion of financial resources to these regions.
3. It is committed to bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating the desertification.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)