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22 MARCH 2023



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International Monetary Fund

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IMF clears \$3-billion bailout for Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday cleared a \$3-billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Sri Lanka, potentially unlocking more loans for the debt-ridden island nation that is struggling to recover from last year's economic meltdown.

"The objectives of the EFF-supported programme are to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, safeguarding financial stability,

and stepping up structural reforms to unlock Sri Lanka's growth potential," the IMF said.

Identifying corruption as a key issue, an IMF "governance diagnostic mission" has started assessing Sri Lanka's governance and anti-corruption framework in its first such exercise in Asia, IMF officials said on Tuesday.

The loan comes a year after Sri Lanka defaulted on its foreign debt.

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Organization of 190 member countries

Objectives of IMF

- Foster global monetary cooperation
- Secure financial stability
- Facilitate international trade
- Promote high employment and sustainable economic growth
- And reduce poverty around the world
- Macro-economic growth
- Policy advise & financing for developing countries,
- Promotion of exchange rate stability, and an international payment system
- India is a founder member of the IMF.

Functions:

It has three critical missions:

- Furthering international monetary cooperation, encouraging the expansion of trade and economic growth,
 - Discouraging policies that would harm prosperity.
 - To fulfill these missions, IMF member countries work collaboratively with each other and with other international bodies.
- The **Extended Fund Facility (EFF)** provides financial assistance to countries facing serious medium-term balance of payments problems because of structural weaknesses that require time to address. To help countries implement medium-term structural reforms, the EFF offers longer program engagement and a longer repayment period.

Health

Amid protests, Rajasthan becomes first State to pass Right to Health Bill

Doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals and nursing homes have been agitating against the Bill saying its 'draconian provisions' would stifle the private health sector

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Amid a strong protest by the agitating private doctors, the Rajasthan Assembly on Tuesday passed the Right to Health Bill with the provision for mandatory free-of-cost emergency treatment for every resident of the State at both the government hospitals and the privately-run institutions. With this, Rajasthan has become the first and the only State in the country to legislate the right to health.

The Bill, which was tabled in the Assembly on September 22 last year and was later referred to a Select Committee, was passed by voice vote in the House. The Bill gives every resident of the State the right to emergency treatment care "without prepayment of requisite fee or charges" by any public health institution, health



Police use water cannons in Jaipur to disperse doctors protesting against Rajasthan's Right to Health Bill which was passed by the Assembly on Tuesday. PTI

care establishment and designated health care centres.

Medical and Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said during a two-hour-long debate on the Bill that it was major welfare step aimed at protecting the interests of the public. Mr. Meena said the State government would reimburse the expenses to the health care provider if a patient was unable to pay the requisite charges after

emergency care, stabilisation and referral.

The doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals and nursing homes have been protesting against the Bill, saying its "draconian provisions" would stifle the private health sector.

The agitating doctors said the amendments suggested by them to the Select Committee were not carried out and the Bill had made it mandatory to pro-

vide free treatment without defining an emergency.

While the doctors clashed with the police at Statue Circle near the State Assembly, the health care services across the State were adversely affected, as the private hospitals remained closed for the second consecutive day. Police used water cannons to disperse the agitating doctors, even as the medics in government hospitals boycotted work for two hours as a symbolic gesture of support.

Mr. Meena said the private doctors' demand for withdrawal of the Bill was not justified, as it had been amended based on several of the suggestions submitted by them.

The ruling Congress had made a promise to legislate the Bill in its manifesto for the 2018 Assembly polls and the delay in bringing the law had caused a serious concern among the health activists.

Chambal Sanctuary

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3 States chip in to stop illegal sand mining in Chambal sanctuary

- National Chambal Sanctuary, also called the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary in northern India for the protection of the Critically Endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle and the Endangered Ganges river dolphin.
- Located on the Chambal River near the tripoint of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, it was first declared in Madhya Pradesh in 1978, and now constitutes a long narrow eco-reserve co-administered by the three states.
- Within the sanctuary, the pristine Chambal River cuts through mazes of ravines.
- It is part of the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. [

Socio Religious Movement

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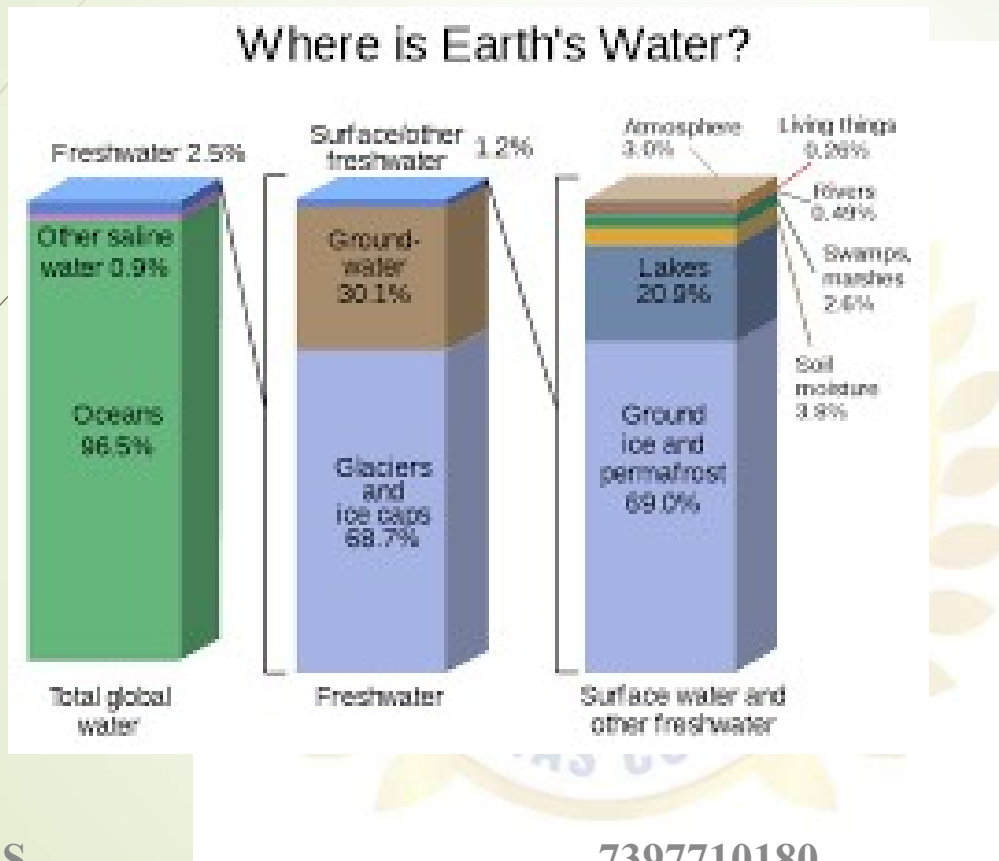
Dayanand Saraswati's life is an inspiration for Modi govt.: Shah

- He was an Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj, a reform movement of the Vedic dharma.
- He was the first to give the call for Swaraj as "India for Indians" in 1876, a call later taken up by Lokmanya Tilak.
- Denouncing the idolatry and ritualistic worship, he worked towards reviving Vedic ideologies.
- He believed in the infallible authority of the Vedas.
- Dayananda advocated the doctrine of Karma and Reincarnation.
- He emphasized the Vedic ideals of brahmacharya, including celibacy and devotion to God.
- He believed that Hinduism had been corrupted by divergence from the founding principles of the Vedas

Environment

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World Water Day is an annual UN observance day held on March 22



THANK YOU

