

Sanjay Vijaykumar Gangapurwala sworn-in as CJ

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Justice Sanjay Vijaykumar Gangapurwala was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court on Sunday. Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath of office during a ceremony in Raj Bhavan after presenting him the warrant of appointment.

With his appointment, notified by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice on May 26, the Madras High Court gets a permanent Chief Justice after more than eight months. So far, the senior most judges of the High Court had been serving as Acting Chief Justice (ACJ) since the retirement of the last Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Munishwar Nath Bhandari on September 12, 2022.

While Justice M. Duraiswamy served as ACJ for a brief period until his retirement on September 21, 2022, his successor Justice T. Raja served from September 22 till his retirement on May 24, 2023. Justice S. Vaidyanathan was serving as the ACJ since

May 25. Justice Gangapurwala formerly served as ACJ of the Bombay High Court. Born in May 1962, he started practice in 1985.

He was advocate for many financial institutions such as Central Bank of India, Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank and Jalgaon Janata Sahakari Bank.

Justice Gangapurwala was the government counsel before the Justice Mane Commission.

A keen sportsman, he had played lawn tennis at national-level and was a State-level basketball player. He became the additional judge of the Bombay High Court in March 2010.

The ACJ of the Madras High Court S. Vaidyanathan and Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu were present.

Dignitaries present in the Durbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan included judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Assembly Speaker M. Appavu, senior Ministers, former judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, former Ministers and senior officials.

India sees reduction in stunting; but wasting, obesity are concerns: report

1.6 crore fewer stunted children aged under five in 2022 than in 2012, show Joint Malnutrition Estimates released by UNICEF, WHO and World Bank; prevalence of obesity marginally increased during the decade, report says

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Commensurate with global and regional trends, India continues to show a reduction in stunting and recorded 1.6 crore fewer stunted children under five years in 2022 than in 2012, according to the Joint Malnutrition Estimates released by the UNICEF, the WHO and the World Bank.

However, wasting continues to remain a concern and so does growing levels of obesity.

Stunting among children under five years in India dropped from a prevalence rate of 41.6% in 2012 to 31.7% in 2022 with the numbers dropping from 52 lakh to 36 lakh. This was accompanied by India's share of the global burden of stunting declining from 30% to 25% in the past decade.

The overall prevalence

Persisting challenges

The Joint Malnutrition Estimates underscore India's mixed progress in battling malnutrition



- India saw 1.6 crore fewer stunted children under five years in 2022 compared with 2012
- Despite reduced stunting, wasting remains an issue with a prevalence rate of 18.7% in 2022 in India
- Prevalence of overweight children increased from 2.2% in 2012 to 2.8% in 2022 in India
- Global stunting declined from 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022, but obesity prevalence increased from 5.5% to 5.6%

of wasting in 2022 was 18.7% in India, with a share of 49% in the global burden. The prevalence of obesity marginally increased in a decade from 2.2% in 2012 to 2.8% in 2022 with the numbers growing to 31.8 lakh from 27.5 lakh, thereby contributing to 8.8% of the global share. But the overall classification for obesity is low and much lower than the global prevalence of 5.6%.

Globally, stunting declined from a prevalence

rate of 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022.

There was no improvement on the weight issue worldwide, as its prevalence rate grew from 5.5% to 5.6%. There was a global prevalence of 6.8% in 2022, but there is no comparison available for past years as it is based on national-level country prevalence data.

The JME report says there is insufficient progress to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly

global nutrition targets and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets and only about one-third of all countries are 'on track' to halve the number of children affected by stunting by 2030. Even fewer countries are expected to achieve the 2030 target of 3% prevalence for overweight.

In line with NFHS

The decline in stunting in India is commensurate with National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-2021) data which estimated its prevalence at 35.5% as against 38% in NFHS-4 (2016) and 48% in NFHS-3 (2006).

"This is the first time I noted in a global report that the problem has started to shift from South Asia. The relative contribution of India's global burden from 29 to 24 was interesting. NFHS-5 showed evidence of continued reduc-

tion of stunting and instances of underweight children, though anaemia was disappointing. It also showed an improvement in access to health services – family planning, ante-natal care, deworming, breastfeeding counselling," said Arjan Wagt, Chief of Nutrition and UNICEF India Deputy Representative, Programmes, adding that he remained hopeful of a further improvement in NFHS-6.

Wasting though is an outlier, Mr. Wagt explains. "In the past few years, we have learnt more about it. It is a challenging indicator, which assesses acute malnutrition over short periods... In India, on the basis of our analysis of a small cohort, we have found that two-thirds of children at 12 or 24 months had wasting at birth or at one month of age. This means two-thirds of the wasting is caused by maternal malnutrition."

Justine Triet becomes only the third woman to win Palme d'Or at Cannes

Agence France-Presse
CANNES

A tense courtroom drama about a writer accused of her husband's murder took the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, capping a strong year for women filmmakers.

French director Justine Triet became only the third woman ever to win the festival's top prize with the icy tale *Anatomy of a Fall*, led by a riveting performance from German actress Sandra Hüller.

Triet used her acceptance speech to slam the government of President Emmanuel Macron for the "shocking" way it imposed a law increasing the retirement age in France.

But she said she was "deeply touched." "I am very pleased to be the third woman who has gotten this prize – things are truly changing and for the best," she told reporters.

Record for women

There were a record seven women among the 21 entries competing at Cannes this year, and many featured complex female characters.

Anatomy of a Fall included a standout performance by "Messi" – the border collie who plays a pivotal role in the film, and won the Palm Dog award a day earlier.

Though Hüller did not win an award – Cannes traditionally only gives one

prize per film – she was arguably the big winner on the night since she also starred in *The Zone of Interest*, based on the book by Martin Amis and directed by Britain's Jonathan Glazer, which took the runner-up Grand Prix.

The harrowing and unique look at the private life of a Nazi family at the Auschwitz concentration camp never shows the horrors of the camp directly, leaving them implied by disturbing background noises and small visual details.

Hüller chillingly portrays the wife of the Nazi commandant, happily tending her garden and boasting she is "the queen of Auschwitz".

The jury of nine film



Big feat: Justine Triet poses with The Palme d'Or Award at the 76th annual Cannes film festival in France on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

professionals was led by last year's winner Ruben Ostlund (*Triangle of Sadness*), and included Hollywood stars Paul Dano and Brie Larson.

"We had a lot of intense, fun discussions," Ostlund told reporters, adding that

it was "a very strong lineup".

Best director went to Vietnamese-born French filmmaker Tran Anh Hung for *The Poet and the Peasant*, a hushed homage to French cuisine that was loved by many international critics

but seemed to leave most local pundits cold.

He thanked his star Juliette Binoche, saying she was "quite extraordinary in the film".

Best actor went to Japan's Koji Yakusho for *Perfect Days*. He thanked German director Wim Wenders for creating "a magnificent character" in the touching tale about a Tokyo toilet cleaner with a complex backstory.

There was a surprise choice for best actress in Turkey's Merve Dizdar for *About Dry Grasses*, the latest from previous Palme-winner Nuri Bilge Ceylan.

Presenting the Palme d'Or, Hollywood legend Jane Fonda recalled the first time she came to Cannes in 1963.

"There were no women directors competing at that time and it never even occurred to us that there was something wrong with that," she said.

"We have come a long way."

The third-place Jury Prize went to Aki Kaurismäki for his sweet, deadpan and very Finnish film *Fallen Leaves* that garnered huge cheers from festivalgoers.

Array of seniors

The 76th edition of the world's leading film get-together was a particularly glitzy affair, with world premieres for the new Indiana Jones and Martin Scorsese films playing out of competition.

Glazer received his

award from Quentin Tarantino and 97-year-old cult director Roger Corman.

The festival often felt like a dream retirement home populated by ageing male icons from Hollywood. Harrison Ford, 80, got weepy when he received an honorary Palme d'Or ahead of the premiere of *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.

Scorsese, also 80, said he was happy to stay out of the competition with his Native American epic *Kill-ers of the Flower Moon*, joking to AFP: "It's time for others. I got to go. There are kids around."

European auteurs Ken Loach, 86, Marco Bellocchio, 83, and Victor Erice, 82, all brought new films to the festival.

'From prevalence in eight States in 2001, dengue now a nationwide infection'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Faced with a shortage of entomologists, a trickier vector, increased travel, and less than optimal public participation for prevention, the infection geography of dengue, which was restricted to eight States in 2001, currently covers all the States and Union Territories in India. Dengue has now breached the country's last bastion, Ladakh (with two cases in 2022), senior health officials say.

As the country gets ready to welcome the southwest monsoon, which is associated with the rise of certain diseases, including malaria, dengue and zika, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) confirmed that dengue's infection geography has grown.

"During the past two decades, there has been a significant geographical spread of dengue with an 11-fold increase and repeated outbreaks. ...Rural areas contributed approximately 32% of the total cas-



The WHO says half of the world population is at risk. AFP

es in 2015-16 and have increased to 41%-45% now," experts maintained.

Half of world at risk

The World Health Organization estimates the global incidence of dengue has grown over recent decades, with half of the world population now at risk. The ICMR said that this risk from dengue, which is now endemic in more than 100 countries, has been propelled by several factors, including climate change, increased urbanisation and increased travel.

Himmat Singh, from the ICMR-National Institute of

Malaria Research, notes that the problems in the control of the Aedes-borne disease are manifold. "Day-biting habit, multiple biting, long incubation period, fast transport, eggs retained up to one year, container breeding, human environment, and intermittent water supply and poor waste management at construction sites add to the problem," Dr. Singh said.

According to the Central government's paper on dengue outbreaks in India, the dengue vector is very different from the malaria vector and so, bio-environmental strategies alone will not work. This, coupled with the shortage of entomologists in the country, works to help the spread of dengue.

ICMR officials said that besides the work on vaccines, they were also looking at increasing awareness and promoting prevention, people's participation, and the use of the latest technology, including satellite imaging and drones to map vulnerable areas.

Antarctic alarm bells over slowing down of 'overturning circulation'

Kathy Gunn
Matthew England
Steve Rintoul

EXPLAINER

Antarctica sets the stage for the world's greatest waterfall. The action takes place beneath the surface of the ocean. Here, trillions of tonnes of cold, dense, oxygen-rich water cascade off the continental shelf and sink to great depths. This Antarctic "bottom water" then spreads north along the sea floor in deep ocean currents, before slowly rising, thousands of kilometres away.

In this way, Antarctica drives a global network of ocean currents called the "overturning circulation" that redistributes heat, carbon and nutrients around the globe. The overturning is crucial to keeping Earth's climate stable. It's also the main way oxygen reaches the deep ocean.

But there are signs this circulation is slowing down and it's happening decades earlier than predicted. This slowdown has the potential to disrupt the connection between the Antarctic coasts and the deep ocean, with profound consequences for Earth's climate, sea level and marine life.

Our new research, published today in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, uses real-world observations to decipher how and why the deep ocean around Antarctica has changed over the past three decades. Our measurements show the overturning circulation has slowed by almost a third (30%) and deep ocean oxygen levels are declining. This is happening even earlier than climate models predicted.

We found melting of Antarctic ice is disrupting the formation of Antarctic bottom water. The meltwater makes Antarctic surface waters fresher, less dense, and therefore less likely to sink. This puts the brakes on the overturning circulation.

Why does this matter?

As the flow of bottom water slows, the supply of oxygen to the deep ocean declines. The shrinking oxygen-rich bottom water layer is then replaced by warmer waters that are lower in oxygen, further reducing oxygen levels.

Ocean animals, large and small, respond to even small changes in oxygen. Deep-ocean animals are adapted to low oxygen conditions but still have to breathe. Losses of oxygen may cause them to seek refuge in other regions or adapt their behaviour. Models suggest we are locked in to a contraction of the



A view of the waters off the Antarctic landmass. TORSTEN DEDERICHS/UNSPASH

"viable" environment available to these animals with an expected decline of up to 25%.

Slowdown of the overturning may also intensify global warming. The overturning circulation carries carbon dioxide and heat to the deep ocean, where it is stored and hidden from the atmosphere. As the ocean storage capacity is reduced, more carbon dioxide and heat are left in the atmosphere. This feedback accelerates global warming.

Reductions in the amount of Antarctic bottom water reaching the ocean floor also increases sea levels because the warmer water that replaces it takes up more space (thermal expansion).

Signs of a worrying change

Making observations of bottom water is challenging. The Southern Ocean is remote and home to the strongest winds and biggest waves on the planet. Access is also restricted by sea ice during winter, when bottom water forms.

This means observations of the deep Southern Ocean are sparse. Nevertheless, repeated full-depth measurements taken from ship voyages have provided glimpses into the changes underway in the deep ocean. The bottom water layer is getting warmer, less dense and thinner.

Satellite data shows the Antarctic ice sheet is shrinking. Ocean measurements taken downstream of regions of rapid melt show the meltwater is reducing the salinity (and density) of coastal waters.

These signs point to a worrying change, but there are still no direct observations of the deep overturning circulation.



More ice loss will mean more freshening, so we can anticipate the slowdown in circulation and deep oxygen losses will continue.

What did the scientists do?

We combined different types of observations in a new way, taking advantage of each of their strengths.

The full-depth measurements collected by ships provide snapshots of ocean density, but are usually repeated about once a decade. Moored instruments, on the other hand, provide continuous measurements of density and speed, but only for a limited time at a particular location. We developed a new approach that combines ship data, mooring records, and a high resolution numerical simulation to calculate the strength of Antarctic bottom water flow and how much oxygen it transports to the deep ocean. Our study focused on a deep basin south of Australia that receives bottom water from several sources. These sources lie downstream of large meltwater inputs, so this region is likely to provide an early warning of climate-induced deep ocean changes.

The findings are striking. Over three decades, between 1992 and 2017, the overturning circulation of this region slowed by almost a third (30%) causing less oxygen to reach the deep. This slowing was caused by freshening close to

Antarctica. We found this freshening reduces the density and volume of Antarctic bottom water formed, as well as the speed at which it flows.

The observed slowdown would have been even greater if not for a short-lived climate event that drove a partial and temporary recovery of bottom water formation. The recovery, driven by increased salinity, further illustrates the sensitivity of bottom water formation to salinity changes on the Antarctic continental shelf. Worryingly, these observations show that changes predicted to occur by 2050 are already underway.

What next?

Ice loss from Antarctica is expected to continue, even accelerate, as the world warms. We are almost certain to cross the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming threshold by 2027. More ice loss will mean more freshening, so we can anticipate the slowdown in circulation and deep oxygen levels will continue.

The consequences of a slowdown will not be limited to Antarctica. The overturning circulation extends throughout the global ocean and influences the pace of climate change and sea level rise. It will also be disruptive and damaging for marine life.

Our research provides yet another reason to work harder - and faster - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(Kathy Gunn, CSIRO; Matthew England is Scientia Professor and deputy director of the ARC Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science, UNSW Sydney; and Steve Rintoul is CSIRO Fellow, CSIRO. This article is republished from The Conversation.)