



OCTOBER, 2023



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# HINDU & EXPRESS NOTES

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## 2nd October, 2023

### India's Statistical Performance on the Global Stage-The Hindu Editorial

-Science Tech

Key Takeaways:

1. **Scrutiny of India's Statistical System:** India's election to the United Nations Statistical Commission has raised questions about the credibility of its official statistical system and the competence of statisticians. There are concerns about the quality of statistical results from censuses and surveys compared to administrative sources.
2. **SPI and Dimensions:** SPI assesses national statistical systems across five dimensions or "five pillars": Data Use, Data Services, Data Products, Data Sources, and Data Infrastructure. India's 2019 SPI Score is 70.4, with weaker performance in Data Use and Data Products.
3. **India Assessment:** The "Data Products" pillar focuses on essential data for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India's Data Infrastructure score is 55, with challenges in "Standards and Methods" and "Finance." Administrative data in India receives a lower rating due to issues with birth registration coverage estimates.
4. **Data Services and Sources:** India excels in Data Services and Data Sources, especially in censuses, surveys, and geospatial data. There is room for improvement in online accessibility and data usage terms. India's Open Data Inventory is recognized with a commendable rank.

#### Prelims Facts:

1. **India's SPI Ranking:** In 2019, India was ranked 67th out of 174 countries by the World Bank's Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI).
2. **Dimensions of SPI:** The SPI evaluates national statistical systems across five dimensions or "five pillars": Data Use, Data Services, Data Products, Data Sources, and Data Infrastructure.
3. **India's 2019 SPI Score:** India's overall SPI score in 2019 was 70.4. Within the five pillars, its scores were as follows:



| Clear your doubts now.



- Data Use: 80.0
  - Data Services: 88.0
  - Data Products: 60.0
  - Data Sources: 68.9
  - Data Infrastructure: 55.0
4. **Challenges in Data Use:** India's performance in the "Data Use" pillar was ranked at 101 out of 174, primarily due to a 20-point loss related to the unavailability of comparable poverty estimates for the World Bank over the last 10 years.
  5. **Open Data Inventory:** India received recognition for its Open Data Inventory, with a commendable rank of 40 in "Openness."
  6. **Challenges in Administrative Data:** Administrative data in India faced challenges due to issues with birth registration coverage estimates, leading to lower scores.
  7. **Questions about India's Statistical System:** The article highlights questions raised about the credibility of India's official statistical system, the competence of statisticians, and the quality of statistical results, especially in comparison to administrative sources.
  8. **International Bodies' Use of Statistics:** The "Data Use" category assessed how international bodies utilized statistics produced by the Indian system, with India performing well in certain areas like child mortality estimates, debt reporting, drinking water, and labor force participation.

### Essay-Vocabulary Improvement

1. **Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI):** SPI is a measurement tool used to assess the performance of national statistical systems.
2. **Robustness:** The quality of being strong and healthy; the ability to withstand or recover from challenging situations.
3. **Estimates:** Approximate calculations or judgments about the value, size, or extent of something.
4. **Conceptual Shortcomings:** Weaknesses or limitations related to the underlying ideas or concepts of a system.
5. **Pivotal:** Of crucial importance or significance, often referring to key pillars or aspects.
6. **Metadata:** Data that provides information about other data, such as descriptions, tags, or context.
7. **Quintile:** One of five equal parts or divisions, often used to categorize rankings or scores.
8. **SPI Score and Relevance:** The SPI score for 2019 highlights India's strength in censuses and surveys compared to administrative data. Identifying issues and setting achievable goals is crucial for improving India's SPI ranking. Proactive engagement with the World Bank to enhance SPI robustness is recommended. The article suggests using "Vital Statistics of India" for estimating birth and death registrations.

### Mains- Synopsis:

In simpler terms, this article is like a report card for India's ability to gather and use data. It says that in 2019, India got a score that ranked it 67th out of 174 countries in the world. This score tells us how good India is at collecting and using data to make decisions. But some people are worried that the data India collects might not always be accurate, and they are questioning if the people who work with this data are doing a good job.

India is doing well in some areas, like reporting how many children survive or how much money the country owes. But it's not doing as well when it comes to telling us how many people are living in poverty. The article gives some ideas on how India can get better at this, like improving how it collects data, making data easier to find online, and managing the money it spends on collecting data.





It also suggests that India should work more closely with other countries and organizations like the World Bank to make sure its data is really good and trustworthy. So, this article is like a friendly guide on how India can improve its data and statistics to make better decisions and be more competitive in the world.

### Victory for the Weak-The Hindu Editorial

-Sociology

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Historic Victory for Adivasi Community:** A tribal community in Tamil Nadu, known as Adivasis, recently achieved a significant legal victory on September 29 at the Madras High Court. This victory marks the first time that a community of 655 Adivasis successfully challenged and defeated the collective power of the state through the democratic and legal process.
2. **Background of Brutality:** The Adivasis of Vachathi, Tamil Nadu, had their lives dramatically changed in June 1992 when police, forest officials, and revenue officers, numbering 269, accused them of illegal sandalwood hoarding and involvement in smuggling. Over three days, villagers, including women, the elderly, and children, were subjected to brutality, including beatings, home destruction, well poisoning, and the rape of 18 women and a girl. These atrocities occurred under the leadership of then-Chief Minister Jayalalithaa.
3. **Long Legal Battle:** The state initially refused to register a case against its officials, compelling the villagers to seek a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry through the Madras High Court. The CBI filed charges in 1996, and the case was tried in a Dharmapuri Sessions Court for 15 years. In 2011, the villagers achieved a rare victory when the trial court convicted all the accused on various charges, including rape and atrocities under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. However, this order was subsequently stayed by the Madras High Court due to appeals by bureaucrats.
4. **Judicial Independence:** The Madras High Court's judgment, upholding the trial court's conviction, carries significant implications for the relationship between an elected government and the judiciary. It underscores that an elected government cannot rule with impunity and must respect the independence of the judiciary.
5. **Effectiveness of SC/ST Law:** The case of Vachathi highlights a rare instance where the SC/ST law has served its intended purpose, delivering justice to marginalized communities.
6. **A Pivotal Moment for Adivasi Rights:** This judgment is seen as a pivotal moment in the long struggle for Adivasi rights. It demonstrates how the combined efforts of civil society, dedicated lawyers, an impartial judiciary, and the determination of victims seeking justice can leverage democratic principles and the judicial system to achieve positive outcomes.

#### Prelims-Facts

1. A tribal community in Tamil Nadu, consisting of 655 Adivasis, achieved a significant legal victory on September 29, 2023, at the Madras High Court.
2. In 1992, the village of Vachathi in Tamil Nadu faced brutal treatment by the authorities, including police, forest officials, and revenue officers, who accused villagers of illegal sandalwood hoarding and involvement in smuggling.
3. The brutal actions against Vachathi's residents included beatings, home destruction, well poisoning, and the rape of 18 women and a girl. These actions took place under the leadership of Chief Minister Jayalalithaa.
4. Despite initial reluctance by the state to register a case against its officials, the villagers sought a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry through the Madras High Court.







5. The CBI filed charges in 1996, and the case was tried in a Dharmapuri Sessions Court for 15 years.
6. In 2011, the trial court convicted all the accused, including government officials, on various charges, such as rape and atrocities under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
7. However, the Madras High Court subsequently stayed the trial court's order due to appeals by bureaucrats.
8. The recent Madras High Court judgment upheld the trial court's convictions, sending a strong message about the importance of an independent judiciary and accountability of elected governments.

### **Essay- Vocabulary Improvement**

1. **Jurisprudence:** The study or philosophy of law and the principles on which legal systems are based.
2. **Paradigm Shift:** A fundamental change in approach or perspective.
3. **Impunity:** Exemption from punishment or consequences for wrongdoing.
4. **Atrocities:** Extremely cruel or brutal acts.
5. **Convergence:** The coming together or meeting of different elements, such as ideas, people, or factors.

### **Mains-Synopsis:**

This article talks about a big win for a group of people in Tamil Nadu. They are called Adivasis, and they live in a place called Vachathi. Around three decades ago, the government accused them of doing illegal things like smuggling and took very harsh actions against them. This included beating up the villagers, destroying their homes, poisoning their wells, and even raping some of the women. This terrible stuff happened while a powerful leader named Jayalalithaa was in charge.

The government didn't want to punish its own people for these actions, so the villagers had to go to court to get justice. It took a very long time, but in 2011, a court said that the government officials were guilty. However, later on, another court stopped this decision because some government workers appealed.

Now, the recent court decision is a big deal because it says that the first court's decision was right. It also shows that even the government can't do whatever it wants and that the courts are independent and can make their own decisions. This victory is important not just for these villagers but also for all Adivasis and for people who believe in justice and fairness. It's like a message that the government has to follow the rules and be fair to everyone.

### **An Ageing India needs age responsive Tb Care-The Hindu Oped**

-Sociology

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Growing Elderly Population:** India is experiencing a demographic shift towards an increasingly elderly population, with the percentage of people aged 60 and above expected to rise from 9% in 2011 to 12.5% by 2030 due to improved healthcare and longer life expectancy.
2. **TB Prevalence Among Elderly:** The article highlights the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) among India's elderly population. According to the National TB Prevalence Survey in 2021, the incidence of TB in individuals aged 55 and above was significantly higher at 588 cases per one lakh population, compared to the national average of 316 cases.
3. **Challenges Faced by Elderly with TB:** Older individuals with TB face numerous challenges in their healthcare journey. Symptoms of TB, like cough, fatigue, and weight loss, are often mistaken for signs of other diseases or dismissed as age-related issues. This can lead to delayed or missed TB diagnoses, especially for the elderly. Managing TB in older individuals is complicated by multiple other health conditions, particularly diabetes, resulting in a higher pill count and increased risk of side effects. Additionally, older people, especially women, encounter difficulties accessing healthcare services, including transportation, reliable health information, and proper nutrition. Economic dependence and mental health issues compound their challenges.





4. **Need for Elderly-Friendly TB Care:** The article emphasizes the necessity of designing and delivering TB care that is elder-friendly. This involves transitioning from disease-specific healthcare models to holistic care approaches, building the capacity of healthcare professionals to manage TB and comorbidities in the elderly, improving case finding through efficient diagnostic methods, and developing clear guidelines for diagnosing and treating TB in older individuals.
5. **Addressing Socioeconomic Needs:** To support elderly TB patients, the article suggests implementing support protocols based on the input of elderly individuals with TB. This could include community care models, doorstep medicine delivery, peer support, counseling, help desks at healthcare facilities, and assistance in accessing social support programs.
6. **Data Collection and Analysis:** There is a call for rigorous gender- and age-disaggregated data collection and analysis to understand TB trends across age groups and ensure that the elderly are considered a distinct age category in TB reports.
7. **Research Focus:** The article stresses the need for increased research into TB among the elderly, including state-specific trends, drug resistance patterns, comorbidity assessment, and TB preventive therapy uptake, as well as how TB intersects with other aspects of equity like gender, disability, class, and caste.

### **Prelims-Facts:**

1. India's elderly population is expected to increase from 9% in 2011 to 12.5% by 2030 due to advances in healthcare and longer life expectancy.
2. Tuberculosis (TB) affects over 25 lakh (2.5 million) Indians annually, with at least 1,000 deaths daily.
3. The National TB Prevalence Survey in 2021 found a significantly higher TB incidence rate among individuals aged 55 and above (588 cases per one lakh population) compared to the national average (316 cases).
4. Elderly TB patients face challenges such as delayed or missed diagnoses, multiple health conditions, higher pill counts, side effects, difficulty accessing healthcare services, and mental health issues.
5. The article emphasizes the need for elder-friendly TB care, improved case finding, capacity building for healthcare professionals, socioeconomic support, data collection, and research on TB in the elderly.

### **Essay- Vocabulary Improvement**

1. **Demographic Shift:** A change in the characteristics of a population, such as age distribution.
2. **Prevalence:** The proportion of a particular condition or disease within a population at a specific time.
3. **Comorbidities:** The presence of two or more medical conditions or diseases in a patient at the same time.
4. **Intersectionality:** The interconnected nature of social categorizations, such as race, gender, and class, that can create overlapping and interdependent forms of discrimination.
5. **Disaggregated:** To separate data into its individual components, often by categories like age or gender.

### **Mains-Synopsis:**

This article talks about how India's population is getting older because people are living longer, and healthcare is getting better. In 2011, around 9% of people in India were 60 or older, and by 2030, it's expected to be 12.5%. The elderly are important because they have a lot of wisdom, and we should respect their rights and freedoms.

On October 1, which is International Day of Older Persons, we should remember to take care of our elderly population, especially when it comes to a disease called tuberculosis (TB). TB is a big problem in India, with over 25 lakh people getting it every year, and 1,000 people dying from it every day.

The article says that the elderly are more likely to get TB than younger people. It's because the symptoms of TB, like coughing, feeling tired, and losing weight, can be mistaken for other illnesses or just getting old. This can lead to a delay in diagnosing TB in older people. When they do get diagnosed, it's often complicated because they might have other health problems like diabetes.





The elderly also have trouble getting to the doctor or finding good information about their health, especially in rural areas. They may not have access to healthy food or be able to work, so they depend on their families. There are some programs to help older people, but they are limited.

The article suggests that we need to change the way we take care of elderly people with TB. We should provide more comprehensive care and make it easier for them to see doctors and get medicine. It also calls for better data collection and more research on TB in the elderly.

In simple terms, the article reminds us that India's population is getting older, and we need to pay special attention to the health of elderly people, especially when it comes to a disease like TB, which affects them more than others. We should improve how we take care of them, make it easier for them to get medical help, and do more research to understand their health needs better.

### **A Softer Touch- Indian Express Editorial**

-Polity

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1. Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023:** India has passed the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 as part of its regulatory framework for the digital economy.
- 2. Concerns About Changes in Regulatory Structure:** There are concerns about proposed changes in the regulatory structure that could grant significant power and discretion to the government.
- 3. Removal of Legal Guardrails on Content-Blocking Orders:** Proposed changes include the removal of legal guardrails around content-blocking orders, potentially giving the government more control over online content.
- 4. Government's Discretion in Granting Legal Immunity:** Another concern is the government's discretion in granting legal immunity to social media platforms, which may impact online freedom of expression.
- 5. Increased Takedown Requests:** The article highlights a significant increase in takedown requests from the Indian government to social media platforms, indicating growing regulatory involvement.
- 6. Regulation of Emerging Technologies:** The government is considering regulating the deployment of emerging technologies, potentially restricting their use if perceived as risks to users or national security.
- 7. Concerns About Government as Arbiter:** Concerns are raised about the government's role as an arbiter in determining the risks posed by new technologies, questioning whether it should have such authority.
- 8. Reassessment and Reexamination:** The article calls for a reassessment of the proposed provisions of digital regulation, urging a careful examination of their consequences to ensure alignment with intended goals and protection of digital freedom and technological development.

#### **Prelims- Facts:**

1. The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 has been passed as part of India's digital economy regulatory framework.
2. The government is considering changes in the Digital India Bill, which could affect the control over online content and legal immunity for social media platforms.
3. Removal of legal guardrails around content-blocking orders could potentially impact online freedom of expression.
4. There has been a significant increase in takedown requests from the Indian government to social media platforms.
5. The government's discretion in determining the risks posed by new technologies is a subject of concern.

#### **Essay-Vocabulary Improvement:**

1. **Guardrails:** Protective measures or restrictions designed to prevent unwanted actions or outcomes.
2. **Discretion:** The freedom to make decisions or judgments based on one's own judgment and not bound by strict rules.
3. **Immunity:** Legal protection from liability or responsibility.





4. **Arbiter:** A person or entity that has the authority to settle disputes or make decisions.
5. **Reassess:** To evaluate or examine something again to consider its consequences or implications.

### **Mains-Synopsis:**

This article discusses a new law called the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023, which was passed in August. It's part of a set of rules the government is making to control how things work on the internet and in the digital world in India. However, there are some changes being considered in another law called the Digital India Bill, and these changes are causing concerns.

One change could give the government more power to block or remove things from the internet without clear rules. This is a problem because the government has been asking social media companies to remove content more and more. If this change happens, it might mean that the government can control what we see online more easily.

Another change might let the government decide which social media platforms are safe from legal trouble for things people post on their sites. This could be a problem because it means the government could choose who gets special protection and who doesn't. It might lead to the government taking down things online that criticize them.

The government is also thinking about making rules for new technologies. This could be good to keep people safe, but it might also stop us from using cool new things. We have to think if the government should be the one to decide what's safe and what's not.

In the end, this article wants the government to think again about these changes and make sure they won't take away our freedom on the internet and stop us from enjoying new technology.

### **A Slowing Momentum- Indian Express Editorial**

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Impressive Growth in Q1:** India's economy grew at a rate of 7.8% in the first quarter of 2023-24, making it the fastest-growing major economy globally during that period.
2. **Favorable Economic Momentum:** Economic activity showed robust momentum in the first two months of the second quarter, with positive trends in various high-frequency indicators.
3. **Base Effect:** The pace of growth is expected to moderate in the coming quarters due to the dissipation of the favorable base effect.
4. **Q2 GDP Growth Estimate:** India's GDP growth is anticipated to be around 7% in the second quarter, exceeding the Monetary Policy Committee's estimate.
5. **Erratic Monsoons:** The erratic monsoon has affected crop yields, and reservoir levels are lower than usual, potentially impacting rural demand.
6. **Consumer Sentiment:** Urban consumer sentiment has leveled off, and food inflation will play a pivotal role in festive spending.
7. **Monetary Policies:** The cumulative monetary tightening by the RBI may impact discretionary spending, affecting growth prospects in the second half of the year.
8. **Exports Contraction:** India's exports are expected to contract in the second half due to tepid external demand, contributing to the drag on GDP growth.
9. **Government Capex:** Front-loading of capital expenditure (capex) by governments has supported economic activity in the first half, but a slowdown is anticipated as general elections approach.
10. **GDP Expansion:** India's GDP is expected to expand by 6% for the full year, with a baseline estimate of 6.2% in 2024-25, depending on various economic and political factors.

#### **Prelims-Facts:**





1. India's economy grew at a rate of 7.8% in the first quarter of 2023-24, making it the fastest-growing major economy during that period.
2. The momentum in economic activity in the second quarter is expected to be driven by various high-frequency indicators.
3. India's GDP growth is anticipated to be around 7% in the second quarter, exceeding the Monetary Policy Committee's estimate.
4. The second half of the year may see a slowdown in GDP growth due to factors like erratic monsoons, sub-par reservoir levels, and cautious rural demand.
5. The cumulative monetary tightening by the RBI may impact discretionary spending, and growth in value-added terms may be impacted as commodity prices stabilize.
6. India's exports are expected to contract in the second half due to tepid external demand.
7. Front-loading of capex by governments has supported economic activity in the first half, but a slowdown is anticipated as general elections approach.
8. India's GDP is expected to expand by 6% for the full year, with a baseline estimate of 6.2% in 2024-25, depending on various economic and political factors.

#### **Essay- Vocabulary Improvement:**

1. Robust - Strong, sturdy, or capable of withstanding pressure.
2. Dissipation - The act of gradually disappearing or dissipating.
3. Nascent - In the early stages of development or growth.
4. Cautious - Exercising care and forethought to avoid potential risks or problems.
5. Tepid - Showing little enthusiasm or warmth; lukewarm.
6. Geopolitics - The study of the influence of geographical factors on international politics and international relations.
7. Baseline - A reference point or starting point used for comparisons.
8. Contraction - A reduction in size, quantity, or economic activity.
9. Front-loading - A strategy of completing tasks or actions earlier than necessary.
10. Monetary Tightening - A policy by the central bank to reduce the money supply or increase interest rates to control inflation.

#### **Mains-Synopsis:**

India's economy performed well in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, growing at a rate of 7.8%. It was the fastest-growing major economy globally during that period. However, as we look ahead, there are reasons to believe that the pace of economic growth may slow down in the coming months.

One factor contributing to this potential slowdown is the "base effect." This means that the impressive growth seen in the first quarter was partly due to favorable conditions in the previous year. As those conditions level out, the growth rate may moderate. While the first two months of the second quarter showed positive signs, such as increased economic activity, there are challenges on the horizon. Erratic monsoons have affected crop yields, and reservoir levels are lower than usual. This could impact rural demand as farming incomes are affected.

Urban consumers are also showing more cautious spending habits, which could influence overall economic growth. Food prices will play a crucial role in determining how much people spend during festivals.

Additionally, the central bank's monetary policies may affect households' discretionary spending, particularly for those with loans. As the year progresses, we might see a slowdown in government-funded projects, which could further impact economic growth. While the outlook for the economy remains positive, with expectations of around 6% growth for the full year, it's important to monitor various factors like monsoons, commodity prices, and political developments that could influence the economic landscape in the coming years.





**3rd October, 2023**

## **Canada's hollow moralpolitik- Indian Express Article**

International Relations

### **Key takeaways:**

- 1. Historical Ties:** India and Canada shared idealism and a commitment to a normative global order in the past, but this era ended in the mid-1970s.
- 2. Current Crisis:** Bilateral relations between India and Canada are currently strained, and Ottawa's unwillingness to address India's concerns about Khalistani militants operating on Canadian soil is a major issue.
- 3. "Vote Bank Politics":** Canada's permissive "vote bank politics," especially under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, has exacerbated the problem, as noted by India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.
- 4. Culture of Self-Righteous Posturing:** Canada's entrenched culture of self-righteous posturing in international affairs has been a point of contention and hampers productive engagement.
- 5. The Influence of Moralpolitik:** Canada's moralpolitik, rooted in moral posturing and high moral ground, has defined its foreign policy approach, differentiating it from the US.
- 6. Past Cooperation:** In the early Cold War era, both India and Canada shared common goals in promoting a normative global order and worked together on various global issues.
- 7. Nuclear Technology and Discord:** Canada played a significant role in assisting India with nuclear technology, but discord arose when Canada reacted strongly to India's first nuclear test in 1974.
- 8. Minority Politics and Strained Relations:** Canada's minority politics, especially related to Khalistani extremists, has cast a shadow over bilateral relations since the 1980s.
- 9. Current Path Forward:** India has suggested a way forward, urging Canada to stop empowering Khalistani extremists, end their political impunity, and crack down on their violent activities.
- 10. Potential for Repair:** Despite the current challenges, the India-Canada relationship holds economic and strategic potential and can be repaired through cooperation and addressing shared concerns.

### **Prelims-Facts**

- 1. Historical Relations:** In the mid-20th century, India and Canada had a period of shared idealism and liberal internationalist commitment to a normative global order.
- 2. Khalistan Issue:** The article mentions Canada's unwillingness to address India's concerns about Khalistani militants operating on Canadian soil.
- 3. Canada's Moralpolitik:** Canada historically adopted a moralpolitik approach, differentiating itself from the United States by focusing on diplomacy and engagement rather than military power.
- 4. Nuclear Cooperation:** Canada played a significant role in India's nuclear development, assisting in the construction of the CIRUS research nuclear reactor and the CANDU power reactor.
- 5. Shift in Canada's Approach:** The conservative government under Stephen Harper showed promise in managing the Khalistan issue, but the liberal government under Justin Trudeau reversed some of these efforts.
- 6. Current Crisis:** The article highlights the current crisis in Canada-India relations due to Canada's permissive "vote bank politics" and its failure to address India's concerns about Khalistani militants.



| Clear your doubts now.



7. **Expectations for Resolution:** India expects Canada to cooperate by sharing credible intelligence, stopping support for Khalistani extremists, and cracking down on their violent activities.

### **Essay- Difficult English words**

1. **Normative:** Relating to an ideal or standard that is considered normal or typical.
2. **Realpolitik:** A political approach based on practical considerations and the pursuit of national interests rather than moral or ideological principles.
3. **Permissive:** . Allowing or characterized by a high degree of freedom or tolerance.
4. **Entrenched:** Firmly established and difficult to change or remove.
5. **Posturing:** The act of behaving in a way that is intended to impress or deceive others, often by adopting a particular attitude or stance.
6. **Grandstand:** To behave ostentatiously or showily, often in order to impress or gain attention.
7. **Emblematic:** Serving as a symbol or representative of something.
8. **Impunity:** Exemption from punishment or harm, often due to a sense of being above the law.
9. **Crack Down:** To take strong and punitive measures against a particular group or activity.
10. **White Knight:** A person or entity that comes to the aid or support of another, often in a heroic or selfless manner.
11. **Nonaligned Movement:** A group of states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc in international politics.
12. **CANDU:** Acronym. Stands for "Canada Deuterium Uranium." It refers to a type of nuclear reactor developed by Canada.

### **Mains-Synopsis**

The article talks about how India and Canada used to have a good relationship based on shared values and ideals in the past. However, in recent years, their relationship has soured, mainly because of Canada's support for certain groups that India has concerns about.

One of the big issues is Canada's reluctance to address India's worries about Khalistani militants operating on Canadian soil. The article points out that Canada's current leader, Justin Trudeau, has contributed to this problem due to his domestic politics and moral posturing.

In the past, Canada had a reputation for taking a moral high ground in global affairs, which often put it at odds with the United States. Canada liked to present itself as a peaceful and principled nation compared to the U.S.'s more aggressive foreign policy. There was also a time when Canada helped India with its nuclear technology, but tensions arose when India conducted a nuclear test in 1974. Canada was upset because it thought India had betrayed their support for peaceful nuclear development.

In recent years, Canada's domestic politics, especially its handling of Khalistani extremists, have strained relations with India. The article suggests that Canada needs to stop supporting these extremist groups and cooperate with India to improve their relationship.

Despite the current issues, the article believes that Canada and India can mend their relations if Canada changes its approach and starts taking India's concerns seriously.

In simple terms, the article talks about how Canada and India used to be friends but have had problems lately because of Canada's support for certain groups that India doesn't like. It suggests that Canada needs to change its ways to make things better.





## Bad Air Plan-Indian Express Editorial

Environment

### Key Takeaways:

1. **Implementation of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):** Delhi has started implementing the Graded Response Action Plan to combat its severe winter pollution problem. This plan includes both preventive and punitive measures to address air pollution.
2. **Need for Collaboration:** The plan acknowledges the importance of collaborating with neighboring states like Punjab and Haryana to control stubble burning, a major contributor to air pollution. However, there is a need for effective coordination between Delhi and these states to ensure clean air during winters.
3. **Concerns Over Emergency Measures:** Despite the implementation of the plan, there are concerns that emergency measures may still be needed to combat pollution in Delhi this year. This highlights the ongoing challenges in addressing air quality issues.
4. **Air Quality Monitoring:** The Commission for Air Quality Management emphasized the importance of a round-the-clock air quality monitoring network in the National Capital Region (NCR). It called for identifying new monitoring sites, especially in NCR districts outside Delhi.
5. **Monitoring Stations:** The report notes that many monitoring stations in the NCR, including Delhi, are inadequate or non-functional. Only a limited number of stations can continuously track PM 2.5 levels. There is a need to identify and address these gaps in monitoring.
6. **Reduction in Pollution:** The Delhi government claims a 40% reduction in pollution since 2015 due to its policies. However, the effectiveness of these policies is questioned, as pollution levels still spike during unfavorable meteorological conditions.
7. **Importance of Long-Term Solutions:** While the early implementation of the action plan is a positive step, the article emphasizes the need for long-term solutions to address Delhi's persistent air pollution problem.

### Prelims-Facts

1. Delhi's government has begun implementing the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to combat winter pollution.
2. The GRAP includes a combination of preventive and punitive measures.
3. Collaboration with Punjab and Haryana is necessary to control stubble burning.
4. The Commission for Air Quality Management emphasized the need for a round-the-clock air quality monitoring network in the National Capital Region (NCR).
5. Many monitoring stations in the NCR, including Delhi, are inadequate or non-functional.
6. Only a limited number of monitoring stations can continuously track PM 2.5 levels.
7. The Delhi government claims a 40% reduction in pollution since 2015 due to its policies.

### Essay- Difficult Words

1. **Smog:** Noun. Fog or haze combined with smoke or other pollutants in the atmosphere.
2. **Meteorological:** Adjective. Relating to the branch of science concerned with the processes and phenomena of the atmosphere.
3. **Smognot:** An informal term combining "smog" and "not" to suggest that smog did not arrive or occur as expected.







## Mains- Conceptual Clarity

The article talks about the actions being taken to deal with the serious air pollution problem in Delhi, especially during the winter months. It mentions a plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which includes things like rules to prevent pollution and punishments for those who don't follow them.

The article also highlights the need for Delhi to work together with nearby states like Punjab and Haryana to control a major cause of pollution called "stubble burning." This is when farmers burn leftover crops after harvest, which pollutes the air.

It also talks about the importance of having a good system to check the air quality, which helps people know how polluted the air is. Right now, some of the machines that do this job aren't working, and there aren't enough of them in the right places.

The Delhi government claims that they've reduced pollution by 40% since 2015 because of their policies. However, pollution still gets really bad sometimes, especially when the weather isn't good. Last year, the air was relatively clean during the festival of Diwali because the wind helped blow the pollution away. But, within a few days, the air quality got worse again.

The article suggests that while it's good that Delhi is taking action early this year, they need to come up with long-term solutions to keep the air clean all the time, not just in emergencies.

## Justice Counts- Indian Express Editorials

-Polity

### Key Takeaways:

1. **Release of Caste Survey Data:** The release of caste survey data in Bihar is seen as an essential step for the state's politics and policies. Caste numbers can provide valuable insights for governments that prioritize social justice and addressing historical inequalities.
2. **National Significance:** The Bihar caste survey data holds significance beyond the state and is expected to resonate at the national level. It has been long overdue, and its release is seen as a logical next step in understanding and addressing caste-related issues.
3. **Empowering Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs):** The survey assigns the highest percentage (36.01%) to the Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs), which were historically marginalized and politically fragmented. This could bring new dignity and coherence to these groups and influence Bihar's politics.
4. **Wider Political Implications:** The caste survey in Bihar is expected to have wider political implications, particularly in the run-up to the 2024 general election. It may fuel discussions about sub-categorization within various caste groups and calls for caste-based surveys in other states.
5. **Handling Data with Care:** While caste-based data is important for addressing historical injustices and implementing affirmative action, it must be handled with care. The data should not be used as a tool to deepen divisions, polarize society, or influence elections. The larger purpose should be to transcend caste divisions.
6. **Caste-Based Affirmative Action:** Caste-based affirmative action, guided by caste numbers, can lead to broader conversations about aspirations, freedom, and opportunities in a changing India. It should promote an ecosystem where citizens are not limited by their identities.
7. **Changing Voter Behavior:** Recent electoral verdicts indicate that voters are increasingly looking beyond fixed caste and community identities and are voting based on shared ideas and aspirations rather than traditional affiliations.





### Prelims- Facts

1. **Release of Caste Survey Data:** The article discusses the release of caste survey data in Bihar, which is seen as an important step for the state's politics and policies.
2. **Purpose of Caste Numbers:** Caste numbers provide a reality check for governments that prioritize social justice and claim to address historical backwardness and inequality.
3. **Historical Context:** The implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the 1990s initiated caste-based politics in northern India, empowering historically neglected communities and expanding quotas in education and jobs for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
4. **Caste Categories in Bihar:** The survey in Bihar assigns the highest percentage (36.01%) to the Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs), which have been politically marginalized.
5. **National Relevance:** The article suggests that the Bihar caste survey data may resonate beyond the state and fuel discussions about caste enumeration at the national level.
6. **Handling Caste Data:** While caste-based data is valuable for addressing historical injustices and affirmative action, it should be handled carefully to avoid polarization and misuse for electoral purposes.
7. **Changing Voter Behavior:** Recent electoral trends show that voters are increasingly looking beyond traditional caste and community affiliations and voting based on shared ideas and aspirations.

### Essay- Difficult Words

1. **Enumeration:** The action of mentioning a number of things one by one.
2. **Stratified:** Arranged or divided into layers or strata, often based on social or economic factors.
3. **Affirmative Action:** Policies and programs designed to address historical inequalities, especially in education and employment, by providing preferential treatment or opportunities to disadvantaged groups.
4. **Straitjacketed:** Restricted or confined, often in a rigid or inflexible manner.
5. **Reality Check:** A situation or information that provides a clear and practical assessment of a given situation.

### Mains- Conceptual Clarity

The article discusses the release of data in Bihar that tells us about the different castes (social groups) in the state. This data is important for the state's politics and policies because it helps the government understand the needs of different communities and work towards social justice.

In the past, a big change in Indian politics happened when the Mandal Commission report was put into action in the 1990s. It gave more opportunities to communities that were historically neglected. Now, with this new data, Bihar's Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) are getting more attention and recognition. These groups were often overlooked in the past.

This data isn't just important for Bihar; it also has national implications. It could influence politics, especially with the upcoming general election in 2024. It may also lead to discussions about caste enumeration (counting) in other parts of India.

While it's essential to have this caste data for addressing historical inequalities, it should be handled carefully. It should not be used to divide people or to win elections. Instead, it should be used to help all citizens achieve their aspirations and overcome historical disadvantages.

In recent times, voters in India are showing that they care more about shared ideas and dreams than just their caste or community. This is an important shift in Indian politics.





In simple terms, the article is about Bihar releasing data about different social groups and why it's important for the state's and the country's politics. It also talks about using this data responsibly to bring positive changes for everyone.

### **A Plan for the Winter Crop-Indian Express Ideas**

-Economy Agri

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Rainfall Deficit:** The monsoon season in India from June to September ended with a 5.6% deficit compared to the long-period average (LPA). This means that there was slightly less rain than usual during this period.
2. **Crop Planting:** Despite the rainfall deficit, the area planted under crops like paddy and sugarcane is higher compared to the previous year. However, the area under pulses, especially arhar (tur), has decreased significantly.
3. **Tur Price Inflation:** Tur (arhar) prices have been rising, with inflation at 32% in August. To address this, India may need to import a million tonnes of tur from African countries and Myanmar.
4. **Rabi Crop Planning:** As the article discusses the approaching winter season and the problem of stubble burning, it also highlights the need to plan for sowing rabi crops (winter crops).
5. **Wheat Production:** Wheat is a crucial rabi crop, and its production has been increasing over the years. The article mentions that India's wheat production for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23 is higher according to government estimates but lower according to trade estimates.
6. **Wheat Inflation:** Wheat prices have been fluctuating, and inflation has been on the rise. The government imposed export bans and restrictions to control prices, affecting farmers.
7. **Policy Framework:** The article questions the government's policies, especially when a large number of people already receive free wheat or rice under the Public Distribution System (PDS). It suggests that these policies may be pro-consumer but not necessarily beneficial for farmers.
8. **Rice Export Restrictions:** Similar to wheat, the government imposed export restrictions and minimum prices on rice to control prices, impacting the market.
9. **Monitoring Crop Progress:** The article calls for better technology and policies to ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their produce. It suggests upgrading the production estimate system to use high technology for better monitoring.
10. **Importance of Agriculture:** The author emphasizes the importance of agriculture and suggests that abrupt export bans and stocking limits may not be the best way to manage agricultural markets.

#### **Prelims-Facts**

1. India experienced a 5.6% deficit in monsoon rainfall from June to September compared to the long-term average.
2. Despite the rainfall deficit, the area planted with paddy and sugarcane has increased compared to the previous year.
3. However, the cultivation area for pulses, especially arhar (tur), has decreased significantly.
4. Tur (arhar) prices have seen significant inflation, with a 32% increase in August.
5. The article highlights the need to plan for sowing rabi crops (winter crops) and discusses wheat production, which is a crucial rabi crop.
6. Wheat production figures provided by the government differ significantly from trade estimates, which can create inflationary market expectations.
7. The government imposed export bans on wheat and rice due to concerns about market prices.





8. The article questions the government's policies, particularly regarding wheat and rice, and suggests they may not be favorable for farmers.
9. It calls for the use of advanced technology to monitor crop progress and improve the accuracy of production estimates.

### **Essay-Difficult words**

1. **Deficit:** The amount by which something, especially money, falls short of what is required or expected.
2. **Paddy:** Rice as it is harvested from the field, before being milled.
3. **Sugarcane:** A tall tropical plant from which sugar is extracted.
4. **Pulses:** Edible seeds of various leguminous plants, such as lentils, beans, and peas.
5. **Inflation:** The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services rises, leading to a decrease in the purchasing power of a currency.
6. **Rabi:** The crop-growing season that follows the monsoon season in India, typically from October to April.
7. **Estimates:** Rough calculations or guesses about the value, size, or cost of something.
8. **Fluctuating:** Changing continually; moving back and forth in an irregular manner.

### **Mains- Conceptual Clarity**

The article talks about the recent monsoon season in India, which had slightly less rain than usual. Despite this, farmers have planted more paddy and sugarcane this year, but less of other crops like pulses. Prices for a type of pulse called "tur" have gone up a lot.

As we move into the winter season, we need to plan for planting crops that grow during this time. Wheat is a significant winter crop, and its production has been increasing. However, the government's estimates of wheat production are different from what traders think, which can make prices uncertain.

The article also raises questions about government policies, especially those related to wheat and rice. It suggests that these policies may not be helpful for farmers and could lead to higher prices for consumers.

In conclusion, the article discusses rainfall, crop planting, and food prices. It also emphasizes the need for better technology to monitor crops and improve estimates.

### **The Investment Reality Check-Indian Express Ideas**

-Economy

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. India's economy grew at a strong rate of 7.8% in the first quarter of the current financial year, and medium-term projections indicate sustained growth of around 6-6.5% over the coming years.
2. India has become an attractive investment destination, particularly for multinational companies seeking alternatives to China, driven by favorable geopolitical developments and growth prospects.
3. Despite the positive economic outlook, foreign direct investment (FDI) in India has been on the decline. In the fiscal year 2022-23, FDI inflows dropped by 16%, and this trend continued in the first four months of the current fiscal year, down 26% compared to the same period last year.
4. The decrease in FDI is primarily observed in the form of reduced fresh equity investments, indicating hesitancy among potential investors.





5. While rising interest rates globally could influence investment decisions, India's competitors like Vietnam and Indonesia have maintained stable FDI inflows, suggesting that other factors may be contributing to India's decline.
6. The article raises questions about whether certain sections of foreign capital and domestic firms prefer to invest indirectly through larger domestic companies due to the challenging business environment and policy uncertainty.
7. India's absence from major trading blocks, such as the European Union and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), may also impact FDI, as countries with broader trade agreements tend to attract more investment.
8. The article emphasizes the need for a balanced assessment of India's investment prospects and calls for addressing obstacles to investment while considering the impact of trade agreements on FDI flows.

### **Prelims-FACTS**

1. India's economy saw a growth rate of 7.8% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.
2. Projections suggest that India may continue to grow at around 6-6.5% over the coming years, making it an attractive investment destination.
3. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India has been declining, with FDI inflows dropping by 16% in the fiscal year 2022-23.
4. FDI inflows in the first four months of the current fiscal year decreased by 26% compared to the same period the previous year.
5. The decline in FDI is particularly evident in fresh equity investments.

### **ESSAY- Difficult words**

1. **Robust:** Strong and healthy.
2. **Geopolitical:** Relating to the politics of countries in relation to their position on the globe.
3. **Incentivise:** Provide incentives or motivations for someone to do something.
4. **Impediments:** Obstacles or hindrances that make progress difficult.
5. **Comprehensive:** Covering or including everything.
6. **Deterrents:** Factors or things that discourage or prevent action.
7. **Integration:** The process of combining different parts into a unified whole.

### **Mains- Easy language**

The article discusses India's economic growth and foreign investment trends. India's economy showed strong growth recently, and many experts believe it will continue to grow well in the coming years. This has made India an attractive place for foreign investors who are looking for alternatives to China.

However, there's a puzzling trend: despite India's potential, foreign investment in the country has been decreasing. In simple terms, less money from foreign companies is coming into India. This decline is mainly in the form of fresh investments, where companies buy shares in Indian businesses.

This situation raises some questions. Is there something holding back investors, or are they just waiting on the sidelines? It's important to figure this out because foreign investment is crucial for India's growth.

One reason for this decline could be uncertainty in the business environment and the fear that rules might change suddenly.

Another reason could be that India doesn't have trade agreements with some big trading partners like the European Union, which could make foreign investors less interested.





While India is an exciting story for many, it's not the only one. Countries like Vietnam and Indonesia are also attractive options for investment. So, there's more to understand about what's influencing foreign investment in India, and it's something worth looking into.

### **Criminal Law Bills and a hollow decolonisation- The Hindu Editorial**

-Polity

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. The criminal law bills introduced in 2023 and the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law set up in 2020 were expected to bring about decolonization in Indian criminal law. However, these bills do not achieve decolonization but rather intensify colonial-style powers.
2. Colonization involves the oppressed serving the colonial power, where those in power have rights, and the oppressed must obey. Colonial laws aim to protect and legitimize the colonial state, not the colonized people.
3. A decolonized or postcolonial law would need to reflect the changed relationship between citizens and the state, where citizens are to be served through the government, not oppressed by it.
4. The introduced bills fail to meet the requirements of decolonization. They view citizens with suspicion, making it seem like the state is in opposition to the citizens.
5. The bills contain provisions that are overbroad and constitutionally questionable, increasing police powers and criminalization without addressing existing laws that cover similar offenses.
6. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) expands police powers considerably, allowing for longer police custody and broader powers in cases like terrorist acts.
7. The bills do not consider the reform of police and prison systems, which are relics of colonization. Without reorienting these institutions, calls for decolonization remain empty.
8. Increasing punishments and broadening police powers in the bills borrow from colonial criminal law logic and overlook the impact on overcrowded prisons and policing practices.
9. The narrative of decolonization should not be seen in isolation, as other criminal laws like the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022, contribute to increased surveillance and state control.
10. Decolonization is not just opposition to colonization but an optimistic endeavor where people shape their destinies, reorder relationships with the state, and center the citizenry. However, it seems hidden behind the rhetoric of decolonization in the bills are exaggerated anxieties of colonial power.

#### **PRELIMS-FACTS**

1. The article discusses criminal law bills introduced in 2023 and the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law set up in 2020, with the expectation of bringing decolonization to Indian criminal law.
2. The bills are criticized for not achieving true decolonization but rather intensifying colonial-style powers.
3. Colonial laws are characterized by oppression, where those in power have rights, and the oppressed must obey, serving the colonial state unquestioningly.
4. The bills fail to reflect the changed relationship between citizens and the state in a postcolonial era, where citizens should be served through the government.





5. The bills contain provisions that are overbroad and constitutionally questionable, expanding police powers and increasing criminalization.
6. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), one of the bills, expands police powers, allowing for longer police custody and broader authority.
7. The bills do not address the reform of police and prison systems, which are considered relics of colonization.

### **ESSAY- Difficult English Words**

1. **Decolonization:** The process of undoing or reversing the effects of colonization, which involves gaining independence and reclaiming control over one's own affairs.
2. **Colonized:** The people or territories subjected to colonization, where an external power exercises control.
3. **Suppression:** The act of forcefully putting an end to something or someone, often through the exercise of authority or power.
4. **Colonialism:** The policy or practice of establishing and maintaining colonies by a more powerful country over a weaker one.
5. **Reorienting:** Changing or adjusting the direction or focus of something to align with new objectives or circumstances.

### **MAINS- Conceptual Clarity**

The article discusses certain criminal law bills introduced in 2023 and a committee set up in 2020 to reform criminal laws in India. These bills were expected to bring about changes in the legal system to make it less oppressive, but they seem to be doing the opposite.

In colonial times, the rulers had all the power, and the people had to obey without question. The laws at that time were designed to protect the rulers, not the people. In today's world, things should be different. The laws should protect the rights of the citizens, not the state's interests.

However, these bills are criticized for not reflecting this change. They give more power to the police and make more things illegal without good reason. This is a step backward, not forward.

These bills also don't address problems with the police and prisons, which are seen as remnants of colonial times. They need changes, but these bills don't do that.

So, while the bills were supposed to make things better, they seem to be making things worse. This is a problem because it goes against the idea of making the legal system fairer for everyone.

### **The Narrative of Development and Populism-The Hindu editorial**

-Polity

### **Key Takeaways**

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1. Recent announcements by politicians in India highlight the convergence of "development and populism" as key themes in election campaigns.
2. Development is often presented as a long-term ideal, while populism is viewed as myopic and potentially development-retarding.
3. Development is commonly defined narrowly in terms of visible physical infrastructure projects, which can be easily showcased and quantified.





4. Equating development with visible mega-infrastructure could have detrimental consequences, as it often neglects environmental sustainability and long-term consequences.
5. Examples of megainfrastructure projects in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have led to environmental disasters and long-term costs.
6. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has accumulated significant debt, with debt servicing costs expected to exceed ₹50,000 crore in FY28.
7. Economic populism, which focuses on policies benefiting the majority, may be a response to the obsession with physical infrastructure-led development.
8. Political populism claims to represent "the people" against perceived enemies, often leading to disregard for restraints on the political executive.
9. Economic policy environments prefer rules and restraints to prevent shortsighted policies, but some flexibility is needed to address economic populism.
10. Conventional models of economic growth assumed that benefits would naturally trickle down, but real-world experiences show that redistribution is necessary to spread growth more evenly.
11. While economic populism may impose fiscal costs, poorly planned physical infrastructure-led development can lead to significant environmental costs, imposing long-term constraints on future governments.

### **PRELIMS-FACTS**

1. Recent political announcements in India have centered around the themes of "development" and "populism," particularly in the context of upcoming elections.
2. Development is often portrayed as a long-term goal, while populism is criticized as myopic and potentially detrimental to development.
3. Development is frequently defined narrowly, focusing on visible physical infrastructure projects that can be easily displayed and quantified.
4. This narrow focus on mega-infrastructure projects may have negative consequences, including neglecting environmental sustainability and long-term impacts.
5. Examples from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand highlight the risks associated with prioritizing mega-infrastructure over other considerations, leading to environmental disasters and long-term costs.
6. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has accumulated significant debt, with debt servicing costs expected to exceed ₹50,000 crore in FY28.
7. Economic populism, which aims to benefit the majority, may emerge as a response to the dominance of physical infrastructure-led development.
8. Political populism often claims to represent "the people" against perceived enemies, potentially disregarding constraints on the political executive.
9. Economic policy environments tend to favor rules and restraints to prevent shortsighted policies, but some flexibility may be needed to address economic populism.
10. Traditional models of economic growth assumed that benefits would naturally trickle down, but real-world experiences indicate that redistribution is necessary to ensure more equitable growth.
11. While economic populism may come with fiscal costs, poorly planned physical infrastructure-led development can lead to significant environmental costs and long-term constraints on future governments.

### **ESSAY- DIFFCULT ENGLISH WORDS**



| Clear your doubts now.





1. **Myopic:** Short-sighted or lacking foresight.
2. **Trickle-down effect:** The belief that economic benefits provided to the wealthy or businesses will ultimately benefit everyone in society.
3. **Rebranding:** Giving a new image or identity to something, often to make it more appealing.
4. **Percolate:** To gradually spread or filter through a substance or a community.
5. **Obsession:** An intense, often unreasonable, preoccupation with something.
6. **Reimagine:** To imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way.
7. **Redistribution:** The act of distributing something again, often referring to wealth or resources.
8. **Discretion:** The freedom or authority to make decisions or choices.
9. **Constraint:** Limitation or restriction.

### **MAINS- CONCEPTUAL CLARITY**

The recent political discussions in India have been dominated by two main themes: "development" and "populism." Politicians often promise to bring development, which is seen as a long-term goal, while criticizing populism as short-sighted and potentially harmful to development.

Development, in this context, is often linked to visible infrastructure projects that can be easily shown to the public, like building roads or bridges. However, this narrow focus on mega-infrastructure projects can have negative consequences, such as harming the environment and incurring long-term costs.

For instance, some states in India, like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, have faced environmental disasters due to poorly planned mega-infrastructure projects. Additionally, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has accumulated a substantial amount of debt, which will be costly to repay.

Economic populism, on the other hand, aims to benefit the majority of the population, and it often emerges as a response to the excessive focus on mega-infrastructure development. It can come with its own fiscal costs, but it addresses the need to ensure that the benefits of development reach a broader section of society.

In summary, while development is essential, it's crucial to consider its impact on the environment and long-term sustainability. Similarly, economic populism, despite its costs, may be necessary to ensure that the benefits of development are distributed more equitably among the population. Balancing these factors is essential for the country's overall well-being.

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Keeping Tabs on Carbon with an accounting system- The Hindu Editorial**

-Environment

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **The Climate Polycrisis:** Coined by Adam Tooze, this term describes the interconnected and escalating crises related to climate change affecting multiple sectors. For example, in India, climate change impacts diverse areas such as energy, infrastructure, health, migration, and food production.



| Clear your doubts now.



2. **Holistic Approach:** The complexity and interrelated nature of these crises require a comprehensive approach that considers the viewpoints and priorities of various stakeholders. This approach should prioritize resilience, equity, and justice.
3. **Deep Transformation:** There's a need to establish a new economy that is environmentally sensitive. Like how digital infrastructure has spurred startups and public services, we must envision a "carbon infrastructure" that takes carbon flows into account at every level, from household to country.
4. **Measurement is Vital:** The initial step is to measure carbon emissions across all levels, from individuals to nations. Once a measurement system exists, a corresponding accounting system can be developed to balance carbon emissions.
5. **Carbon Balance Sheets:** The idea of keeping track of carbon much like financial balance sheets is introduced. There are already methodologies, such as those proposed by Karthik Ramanna at Oxford, that can track corporate carbon balance sheets.
6. **National Carbon Accounting (NCA):** This revolutionary system would place everyone under one carbon accounting umbrella. The proposed NCA would be a significant shift in how we perceive all activities in terms of carbon.
7. **Public Finance and Carbon Accounting:** The article emphasizes the importance of public finance in development and how it's funded through taxes. Currently, carbon is not tracked as granularly as money, which prevents progressive carbon taxing. With carbon accounting, companies can monitor their carbon production and offsetting.
8. **Advantages of NCA:** An NCA would make the carbon flow visible, potentially allowing carbon surpluses to finance other goods and services. This would help set targets, predict future emission reductions, and track progress against these goals.
9. **Future National Carbon Budget:** The article suggests a new vision where, in addition to the economic GDP that countries aim to increase, there would also be a carbon GDP that countries would seek to decrease.
10. **NCA as a Polysolution:** An NCA would not only assist India in achieving its net-zero goal by 2070 but also aid in the creation of new livelihoods and ways of organizing economies globally. By revealing the carbon footprint of activities, we enable a new form of public conversation and harmonize development with ecological sustainability.

#### Prelims-Facts:

1. **Term "Climate Polycrisis":** Introduced by Adam Tooze to describe interconnected climate change challenges affecting multiple sectors.
2. **Impact in India:** Climate change affects sectors such as energy, infrastructure, health, migration, and food production.
3. **Carbon Infrastructure:** A proposed concept that integrates carbon considerations at every policy level.
4. **Karthik Ramanna:** An Oxford personality who championed corporate carbon balance sheet methodologies.
5. **National Carbon Accounting (NCA):** A proposed system to measure and manage carbon emissions from individual to national levels.

#### Essay- Difficult words:

1. **Polycrisis:** A situation where multiple crises occur simultaneously or in a connected manner.
2. **Granular:** Detailed; to a very fine level.
3. **Paradigmatic:** Serving as a typical example or model for something.
4. **Exchequer:** A treasury; especially, in a national or state government context.
5. **Convertibility:** The quality of being exchangeable, especially referring to money.

#### Mains- Simple Explanation:

The article sheds light on the "Climate Polycrisis", a term describing the interconnected challenges posed by climate change across various sectors. This polycrisis impacts multiple areas, with India, for instance, witnessing repercussions in its energy, health, and food production sectors, among others. Addressing this intricate web of problems demands a holistic strategy that accounts for the varied perspectives of all stakeholders.





Rather than isolated efforts, the article suggests a foundational change, encouraging a carbon-sensitive economy. To achieve this, the concept of "carbon infrastructure" is proposed, promoting carbon considerations at every policy-making level.

A key step in this transformation is the measurement of carbon emissions. By tracking carbon outputs from individual citizens to the entire nation, we can develop a robust accounting system to manage and balance these emissions. Drawing inspiration from existing financial systems, the article posits the idea of a carbon balance sheet. Current methodologies, like those endorsed by Karthik Ramanna at Oxford, monitor carbon at the corporate level.

Expanding on this, the article introduces the concept of National Carbon Accounting (NCA). This system, if implemented, would offer a unified carbon accounting framework for everyone, marking a paradigm shift in how we view our carbon footprint. With such a system in place, there's potential for a progressive carbon tax that could play a pivotal role in controlling and reducing carbon emissions.

In conclusion, the National Carbon Accounting system serves as a comprehensive solution (termed as "polysolution") to the multifaceted challenge of the climate polycrisis. It offers a path towards aligning economic growth with ecological sustainability.

### Women's Quota, Panchayat to Parliament- The Hindu Opinion

-Polity

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Historic Act:** The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act has been approved, reserving one-third of the total seats in both the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women. This monumental law was the first passed in the new Parliament building, signifying a pivotal moment in India's democratic evolution.
2. **Historical Context:** This move comes 30 years after the constitutional reforms which reserved one-third of seats in local governments (panchayats and municipalities) for women.
3. **Past Attempts:** Despite numerous attempts over the years, efforts to extend this reservation to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies had previously been unsuccessful.
4. **Local Government Precedence:** The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, made 30 years ago, ensured at least one-third of seats and chairperson roles in panchayats and municipalities were reserved for women, creating a substantial system where about half of the elected panchayat representatives are women.
5. **Expansion and Diversification:** The representation base of Indian democracy has notably expanded and diversified, with some states even reserving up to 50% seats for women in local governments.
6. **Vertical and Horizontal Reservations:** The combination of vertical (SCs, STs, and OBCs) and horizontal (women) reservations recognizes compounded disadvantages faced by individuals due to their caste and gender. However, the new women's reservation law does not make provisions for OBC women.
7. **Research Findings on Reservation Impact:**
  - Positive: Research has shown women leaders in panchayats often invest more in public services like drinking water, education, and infrastructure.
  - Neutral/Negative: Some studies found no distinct performance difference between male and female leaders, while others discovered women's reservations might not benefit certain groups like SC/ST households.
  - Concerns: There are also worries that women's reservation might favor upper-caste women over OBC women.
8. **Need for Deliberation:** Ideally, the design for women's reservations in the higher chambers should've been influenced by the 30-year experience at the local government level. The manner in which the constitutional amendment was introduced warrants more widespread discussion and reflection.





9. **Uncertain Implementation:** The current law links the execution of women's reservation to the conduct of delimitation and census. With potential political issues arising from the next delimitation exercise, especially regarding seat allocation among states, the implementation of women's reservation might become contentious.
10. **Optimism for the Future:** Despite the challenges, the wide approval of the Bill suggests a hopeful possibility of reaching consensus on implementing the women's reservation soon.

#### Prelims-Facts:

1. **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act:** Reserves one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women.
2. **30th Anniversary:** The new amendment comes three decades after the reservation of one-third of seats in local governments for women.
3. **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments:** Mandated a minimum one-third of seats in panchayats and municipalities for women, also introducing reservations for SCs and STs.
4. **Current Representation:** Almost half of the elected panchayat representatives are women due to these earlier reservations.
5. **2009 Amendment Attempt:** The Union government tried to increase women's reservation in local governments from 33% to 50%, but it failed. However, many states independently implemented the 50% reservation.

#### Essay- Difficult words:

1. **Portends:** Indicates a future event; a sign or warning.
2. **Delimitation:** The act of setting or marking limits or boundaries.
3. **Intersectional:** The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender, leading to overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage.
4. **Surreptitiously:** In a way that attempts to avoid notice or attention; secretly.
5. **Constituencies:** A body of voters in a specified area who elect a representative to a legislative body.

#### Mains- Simple Explanation:

The **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act** is a historic step in India's democratic journey, reserving one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women. This law was notably the first to be passed in the new Parliament building. This significant move comes 30 years after seats were reserved for women in panchayats and municipalities, a reflection of the country's broader move towards greater gender equality in representation.

Earlier, the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments** paved the way by ensuring that a minimum of one-third of seats in local governments were reserved for women. This has led to a situation where close to half of the elected panchayat representatives are women. While there were failed attempts to increase this reservation in the past, many states took the initiative to reserve up to 50% of seats for women.

Research has shown mixed results regarding the impact of women's reservation. Some studies suggest that women leaders in local governments prioritize public services more than their male counterparts. In contrast, others indicate there might be no significant difference or even some drawbacks in certain areas.

However, the introduction of this constitutional amendment has not been without its critics. Some argue that the law's design should have been influenced more by its 30-year experience at the grassroots level. Furthermore, tying its implementation to the process of delimitation and census has introduced an element of uncertainty.

The hope moving forward is that this amendment will lead to a more inclusive and representative democratic system, even though its impact and implementation remain subjects of discussion and debate.





## The Morning Knock- Indian Express Editorial

-Polity

### Key Takeaways:

1. **Extent of Operation:** Delhi Police undertook a sweeping search operation targeting NewsClick, covering 50 locations in the National Capital Region and Mumbai. The operation resulted in the questioning of 46 individuals associated with the news portal.
2. **Invoking UAPA:** The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, commonly referred to as UAPA, was invoked against NewsClick. This raised eyebrows and concerns due to the stringent nature of the Act, leading many to perceive it as an attempt to stifle press freedom.
3. **Top Arrests:** NewsClick's Editor-in-chief, Prabir Purkayastha, and the head of human resources, Amit Chakravarty, were among those arrested.
4. **Alleged Illegal Funding:** One of the significant allegations against NewsClick is that it received illegal funding from China, which was routed through the United States.
5. **Judicial Intervention:** In the past, the Delhi High Court had intervened on behalf of NewsClick, directing the Economic Offences Wing to refrain from any coercive action. This directive was given in light of the FIR filed against NewsClick for alleged FDI norms violations.
6. **Questioning the Content:** During the police operation, journalists affiliated with NewsClick were questioned about their coverage of politically sensitive events, such as the Delhi riots, anti-CAA protests, and the farmers' agitation.
7. **Concerns on Bypassing Legal Restraints:** The actions taken against NewsClick, especially invoking the UAPA, have sparked concerns over the potential misuse of stringent laws to bypass established legal restraints and procedures.

### Prelims-Facts:

1. **NewsClick:** A news portal that recently underwent extensive police search operations.
2. **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA):** A law invoked against NewsClick.
3. **Economic Offences Wing:** Filed an FIR against NewsClick for alleged FDI norms violation in August 2020.
4. **Delhi High Court:** Directed the ED to avoid coercive actions against NewsClick in June 2021.

### Essay- Difficult words:

1. **Ominous:** Giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen.
2. **Draconian:** Excessively harsh and severe.
3. **Flagrant:** Conspicuously offensive.
4. **Brazenly:** In a bold and shameless way.
5. **Stringent:** Strict, precise, and exacting.
6. **Circumvent:** Find a way around (an obstacle).

**Mains- Simple Explanation:** NewsClick, a well-known news portal, recently found itself at the center of a large-scale operation conducted by the Delhi Police. They executed searches at over 50 locations across the National Capital Region and Mumbai. A total of 46 individuals, including journalists, employees, and contributors, were questioned in relation to the operation.

One of the major concerns arising from this operation is the use of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, or UAPA, against the news organization. This has led many to believe that the operation is less about the alleged crimes and more about curbing press freedom and intimidating journalists.

NewsClick has previously faced accusations of violating FDI norms and receiving illegal funds from China, channeled through the U.S. These allegations led to interventions from the Delhi High Court, directing law enforcement to avoid coercive actions against



| Clear your doubts now.



the news portal. The court even highlighted the necessity of the protection of the press and emphasized the importance of upholding citizens' rights and freedoms.

With the police action focusing on politically sensitive topics that NewsClick reported on, it draws a worrying picture of potential government interference in journalism. It underlines the critical importance of protecting press freedoms in a constitutional democracy. The entire situation serves as a reminder that state power must be checked to preserve the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

### Undoing Reform- Indian Express Editorial

-Polity

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Extent of Operation:** Delhi Police conducted a widespread search targeting NewsClick, spanning 50 locations in both the National Capital Region and Mumbai.
2. **UAPA's Significance:** The decision to invoke the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against NewsClick has raised concerns about the implications for press freedom in India.
3. **Key Arrests:** Prabir Purkayastha, Editor-in-chief, and Amit Chakravarty, the head of human resources of NewsClick, were arrested.
4. **Allegations:** NewsClick is under scrutiny for allegedly receiving illicit funding from China via the United States.
5. **Judicial Oversight:** Despite the Delhi High Court's directives protecting NewsClick from coercive actions in the past, the current police actions seem to overlook these guidelines.

#### **Prelims-Facts:**

1. Delhi Police searched over 50 locations related to NewsClick.
2. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was invoked against NewsClick.
3. NewsClick faces charges of receiving funding illegally from China, channeled through the US.

#### **Essay- Difficult words:**

1. **Ominous:** Giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen.
2. **Apprehensions:** Feelings of anxiety or fear that something bad will happen.
3. **Draconian:** Excessively harsh and severe.
4. **Flagrant:** Obviously offensive.

**Mains- Simple Explanation:** The Delhi Police recently carried out a comprehensive operation against NewsClick, a news portal, searching over 50 locations in Mumbai and the National Capital Region. A significant development is the use of the UAPA, a stringent law, against the news outlet, intensifying concerns about press freedom in the country. Two of the organization's top figures, Prabir Purkayastha and Amit Chakravarty, have been arrested. The primary allegation against NewsClick is of illegal foreign funding, suspected to be from China but routed through the US. The Delhi High Court had previously shielded the portal from any aggressive action. The recent moves by the police, especially the type of questions posed to the journalists, suggest a broader concern about the freedom of the press and the potential influence or control over the type of news covered by outlets.

### DISASTER IN SIKKIM: HOW DO GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOODS HAPPEN?-The Indian express Explained

-Environment

#### **Key Takeaways:**



| Clear your doubts now.



1. **Location and Immediate Impact** South Lhonak glacial lake in northwest Sikkim burst, leading to flash floods. The aftermath resulted in at least eight deaths and 48 individuals, including 22 Army personnel, reported missing.
2. **Regions Affected** Due to the lake burst, the Teesta river's water levels surged, causing disruptions in at least four districts in the region.
3. **Previous Warnings and Studies** The South Lhonak lake's rapid growth had been previously flagged in several studies, with indications that it was susceptible to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).
4. **What is GLOF?** A GLOF refers to a sudden release of water from a glacial lake, often due to breaches in its wall. Such occurrences can be prompted by various factors, including earthquakes, heavy rains, and ice avalanches.
5. **Possible Triggers** A recent earthquake in Nepal is being considered as a possible trigger for this event, especially since a report highlighted the vulnerability of the lake, which had expanded considerably in size.
6. **Historical Context** In 2013, a similar GLOF event from the Chorabari Tal glacial lake caused a significant number of fatalities in Uttarakhand.
7. **Environmental Concerns in Sikkim Himalayas** The Sikkim Himalayas have been witnessing the effects of rising global temperatures. This change has led to the formation and expansion of numerous glacier lakes, with some identified as potential GLOF risk zones.
8. **Mitigation Efforts** In 2016, recognizing the risks associated with the South Lhonak lake, the SSDMA and Sikkim government introduced measures to siphon off excess water from the lake.

#### Prelims-Facts:

1. South Lhonak lake is at a height of 17,000 ft in northwest Sikkim.
2. A GLOF in 2013 from the Chorabari Tal glacial lake caused thousands of deaths in Uttarakhand.
3. Sikkim Himalayas currently has over 300 glacial lakes.
4. The South Lhonak lake's size had increased nearly 2.5 times from its initial size in 1989.

#### Essay- Difficult words:

1. **Incessant** - continuing without pause or interruption.
2. **Outburst** - a sudden release or expression of strong emotion.
3. **Avalanches** - a mass of snow, ice, and rocks falling rapidly down a mountainside.
4. **Siphon** - to convey, draw off, or empty by or as if by a siphon.

**Mains- Simple Explanation:** The South Lhonak glacial lake, situated in northwest Sikkim at an elevation of 17,000 feet, burst, resulting in devastating flash floods. The tragic event led to the death of at least eight individuals and left 48, including 22 from the Army, missing. As a consequence, the Teesta river overflowed, impacting at least four districts.

The phenomenon responsible for this is termed a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), where a breach in a glacial lake's wall causes vast amounts of water to gush down mountains. Such events can be activated by various triggers, such as earthquakes, torrential rains, and ice avalanches. Notably, there are suspicions that a recent earthquake in Nepal might have initiated this specific GLOF. It's important to note that the vulnerability of the South Lhonak lake had been previously identified, with studies emphasizing the rapidly expanding size of the lake due to melting glaciers. Moreover, the broader region of the Sikkim Himalayas is experiencing the impacts of rising global temperatures, with the creation and expansion of numerous glacial lakes. Some of these lakes are recognized as high-risk areas for potential GLOFs.

As a mitigation effort, in 2016, the SSDMA and the Sikkim government had even initiated measures to reduce water from the South Lhonak lake using specialized pipes. However, despite these efforts, the region still faces the risks associated with GLOFs, especially as global temperatures continue to rise.





## How size of particles change their behaviour, and why is that important-Indian Express Explained

-Science Tech

### Key Takeaways

1. **Fundamental Properties of Elements** Every pure element exhibits consistent properties determined by the electron distribution around its nucleus. Every piece of the same element, regardless of size, has these consistent properties.
2. **Discovery of Nanoscale Deviations** Around forty years ago, scientists discovered that very small nanoparticles exhibited properties that deviated from their larger counterparts. For example, gold nanoparticles behaved differently than larger gold particles.
3. **Historical Milestones**
  4. Alexei Ekimov, in the 1980s, was the pioneer in observing this unique behavior in Copper Chloride nanoparticles.
  5. Louis Brus later found similar behavior in Cadmium Sulphide nanoparticles.
  6. Mounji Bawendi, who initially collaborated with Brus, later optimized the methods to produce such nanoparticles efficiently.
7. **Nobel Recognition** Ekimov, Brus, and Bawendi were recognized with the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their ground-breaking research on nanoparticles.
8. **Applications and Impacts** Due to these findings, nanoparticles with this special behavior are now integral in modern appliances like TVs, computer screens, LED lamps, and have applications in biochemistry and medicine.
9. **Quantum Dots and Quantum Theory** The deviant behavior of nanoparticles is attributed to quantum effects. These effects, typically associated with sub-atomic particles, were theorized in the 1930s to manifest in nanoparticles. Such nanoparticles with unique properties are termed "quantum dots."
10. **Nature of Discoveries**
  - Ekimov observed that the color of glass tinted with Copper Chloride changed based on the size of the Copper Chloride crystals, indicating different light wavelength interactions.
  - Brus had a similar realization that nanometer-sized particles interacted uniquely with light, implying that size, in addition to electron count, influenced a material's properties.
  - Bawendi later refined the process, producing nanoparticles with specific, desired attributes efficiently.

### Prelims-Facts:

1. Every pure element has specific properties determined by its electrons.
2. Nanoparticles, especially in the 1 to 100 billionth of a metre range, can exhibit different properties than larger particles of the same element.
3. Alexei Ekimov first observed this in Copper Chloride nanoparticles around 1980.
4. Louis Brus discovered similar behavior in Cadmium Sulphide nanoparticles.
5. Mounji Bawendi later developed easier methods to produce these nanoparticles.
6. All three, Ekimov, Brus, and Bawendi, were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
7. The strange behavior of nanoparticles is attributed to quantum effects, described by Quantum Theory developed around 100 years ago.
8. These special nanoparticles are called quantum dots.
9. Ekimov and Brus's observations revolved around how these nanoparticles interact with light.

### Essay- Difficult words:



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1. **Nanoparticle:** A particle of matter that is between 1 and 100 nanometers in size.
2. **Quantum:** The smallest amount of many forms of physical quantities; especially, a discrete quantity of electromagnetic radiation.
3. **Quantum Dots:** Semiconductor particles a few nanometres in size, having optical and electronic properties that differ from larger particles due to quantum mechanics.
4. **Erstwhile:** Former.
5. **Fabricate:** To construct or manufacture, especially by assembling individual components.

**Mains- Simple Explanation:** Every element has specific properties, typically determined by the distribution of electrons around its nucleus. This means that pieces of the same element, like gold, will consistently exhibit these properties no matter the size.

However, around four decades ago, scientists made a significant discovery: very tiny particles, known as nanoparticles, can behave differently than larger particles of the same element.

Alexei Ekimov was the first to observe this unique behavior in Copper Chloride nanoparticles in the 1980s. Following him, Louis Brus found a similar deviation in Cadmium Sulphide nanoparticles. Their research centered around how these nanoparticles interact with light, with Ekimov observing changes in the color of tinted glass based on the size of Copper Chloride crystals.

The term "quantum dots" was introduced to describe these unique nanoparticles, whose behavior can be attributed to quantum effects. This means that the behavior and motion of these very small particles are considerably different and, in some ways, strange when compared to larger, more familiar objects.

The importance of their research became clear when Mounji Bawendi developed efficient methods to produce these nanoparticles. Recognizing the significance and potential applications of this discovery, all three researchers were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Their work has led to the development of modern appliances and tools with applications even in medicine and biochemistry.

**7<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

### **Revenue Riddles- The Hindu Editorial**

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Strong GST Revenue Growth:** India's GST revenues for the fiscal year have exceeded ₹9.92 lakh crore, showing a robust 11.1% increase compared to the same period last year.
2. **Healthy Monthly Averages:** Monthly GST collections in 2023-24 are averaging around ₹1.65 lakh crore, with the majority of months surpassing ₹1.6 lakh crore.
3. **Seasonal Influence:** With the onset of the festive season, GST collections above ₹1.6 lakh crore are expected to continue in the coming months.
4. **Fiscal Resilience:** The government appears to be in a secure financial position regarding GST revenues, particularly in anticipation of a slowdown in GDP growth.
5. **Revenue Growth Slowdown:** There is a noticeable deceleration in the growth of GST revenues, with September's growth rate at 10.2%, the lowest since July 2021.
6. **Decreased Growth in Domestic Transactions and Services Imports:** Growth in revenue from domestic transactions and services imports has slowed over the past two months.



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7. **Examining Factors Behind Growth:** It's essential to differentiate between genuine consumption and growth resulting from compliance-related factors.
8. **Import Revenue Contradiction:** Despite a surge in imports in August, the revenue collected from imports in September was lower, prompting the need for further investigation into potential revenue leaks.

#### **Prelims Facts:**

1. India's GST revenues for the fiscal year are ₹9.92 lakh crore, with monthly averages around ₹1.65 lakh crore.
2. September's GST collections were nearly ₹1.63 lakh crore, slightly below the average but higher than August's.
3. The government expects GDP growth to slow from 7.8% to 5.7% in the January-March 2024 quarter.
4. GST revenue growth has slowed to 10.2% in September, the lowest since July 2021.
5. Growth in domestic transactions and services imports has decreased to 14% from 18% over two months.
6. A record 9.34 crore e-way bills generated in August did not result in the highest-ever revenues, possibly due to smaller transaction sizes.
7. Revenues from goods imports have shrunk four times this year, despite a spike in imports in August.

#### **Mains - Easy Language**

India is making a good amount of money through the Goods and Services Tax (GST) this year. From April to September, the country collected more than ₹9.92 lakh crore through GST, which is 11.1% higher than the same period last year. Every month, on average, India collects about ₹1.65 lakh crore through GST. September's collection was almost ₹1.63 lakh crore, which is just a bit below the average but better than what was collected in August.

With the festive season coming up, we might keep seeing these high collections. The government is feeling pretty good about the money it's making from GST, especially considering that the economy might slow down a bit early next year.

But there are some things we should be careful about. First, the growth of GST collections has slowed down. In September, it only grew by 10.2%, which is the slowest it's been since July 2021. Also, the money collected from things people buy in India and from services coming into the country has been growing more slowly for the past two months.

It's important to know that the money collected in September includes some payments from businesses that were pending since the GST system started in 2017-18. Also, starting from August 1, all big companies have to do electronic invoicing, so that might have made the numbers look better than they actually are. We need to figure out how much of this growth is because people are actually buying and producing more, and how much is because of these other factors.

Another thing that's strange is that even though imports went up a lot in August, the money collected from imports in September was less than in the previous month. That doesn't make sense. The government should investigate if there are any issues causing the loss of revenue from imports.

#### **Aligning Higher Education with UNSDGs- The Hindu editorial**

-Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Urgent Global Goals:** The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, are a global priority that all 193 UN member states, including India, aim to achieve by 2030.
2. **Slow Progress:** The SDGs Report 2023 highlights slow progress globally due to factors like the lingering effects of COVID-19, climate crisis impacts, conflicts, and a weak global economy. Least Developed Countries face more significant challenges.
3. **India's Commitment:** Despite setbacks, India shows commitment to achieving SDGs. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aligns with SDGs, particularly SDG4 (quality education).





4. Higher Education Focus: NEP 2020 prioritizes higher education, which is seen as a catalyst for social mobility, critical thinking, and employment skills, contributing to multiple SDGs.
5. Economic Benefits: Data from the OECD indicates that individuals with higher education degrees are more employable, earn more, and contribute to poverty reduction, food security, health, gender equality, decent work, and reduced inequalities.
6. Research and Innovation: Universities should enhance the research-teaching connection to produce multidisciplinary graduates capable of addressing global challenges like clean energy, sustainable cities, climate change, and more.
7. Sustainable Production and Consumption: Achieving SDG12 requires a shift in production and consumption patterns, involving innovative solutions, startups, and collaboration with private companies.
8. Value-Based Education: Introducing Value-Based Education (VBE) can foster responsible citizens who contribute to achieving "Life on Land" (SDG15).
9. Aligning Higher Education with SDGs: NEP 2020 emphasizes mapping higher education with SDGs, but more needs to be done to meet the 2030 agenda.
10. Collective Effort: Indian universities should collaborate, integrate SDGs into their strategies, and actively engage with local communities to promote sustainability and contribute meaningfully to SDGs.
11. Sustainability Integration: Higher education institutions should incorporate SDGs into daily operations, teaching, and research, recognizing their role in socioeconomic development and citizens' well-being.

### **Prelims Facts**

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consist of 17 goals and 169 targets, aimed at addressing global challenges by 2030. India has shown commitment to these goals, with a focus on higher education through the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

### **Mains - Easy Language**

The United Nations has set some big goals called Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs for short. There are 17 goals in total, and all the countries in the United Nations, including India, have agreed to try and achieve these goals by 2030.

But, there's a problem. Even though it's been eight years since these goals were set, a report in 2023 says that progress has been slow. This is because of things like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, climate problems, conflicts between countries, and a weak global economy. The progress has been especially slow in countries that are not very developed.

India, despite facing some challenges, is still working hard to achieve these goals. One of the important goals is about giving everyone access to good education. India has a long history of trying to make education fair for everyone and has been making changes to achieve these goals. One significant change is the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020, which has been designed to match most of the SDGs.

Higher education, like going to college or university, is vital because it helps people get better jobs and makes them more creative and thoughtful. People with higher education degrees usually earn more money and can help with things like reducing poverty, ending hunger, promoting good health, gender equality, creating jobs, and reducing inequalities.

Universities should not only teach but also do research. When students learn from the latest research, they can come up with innovative solutions to big problems like clean energy, sustainable cities, and climate change.

For the world to become more sustainable, we need to change how we make and use things (SDG12). We also need to encourage new ideas and businesses (SDG9) and teach people values that make them responsible citizens (SDG15).

To make sure we achieve these goals, higher education institutions in India need to work together. They should not just teach but also help local communities with things like health, saving energy, using resources wisely, reducing waste, and sharing services.

It's essential for universities to make sustainability a top priority. They should think about these SDGs in everything they do, from how they run day-to-day to what they teach and research. Higher education cannot just happen in isolation; it needs to be closely





connected to making society better and helping people. Every citizen should feel that universities are making a direct and meaningful contribution to their well-being and the nation as a whole.

### **He was a true Kisan Vaigyanik..In his heart he was a farmer by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi- Indian Express Article**

-Economy Agri

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Tribute to Prof. M S Swaminathan: India lost a visionary, Prof. M S Swaminathan, who made significant contributions to agricultural science and India's prosperity.
2. Early Dedication to Agriculture: Prof. Swaminathan chose a career in agriculture due to the impact of the Bengal famine of 1943, rejecting a faculty position in the US to work for India.
3. Pioneer of Green Revolution: Prof. Swaminathan's work in agriculture, particularly wheat breeding, transformed India from a food-deficient nation to self-sufficiency, earning him the title "Father of the Indian Green Revolution."
4. Continued Contributions: He conducted research on combating parasites in potato crops and promoted millets as superfoods in the 1990s.
5. Personal Interactions: The author, who became Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001, collaborated with Prof. Swaminathan on initiatives like the Soil Health Card, contributing to Gujarat's agricultural success.
6. Mentorship and Innovation: Prof. Swaminathan's legacy includes nurturing minds, advocating for sustainable agriculture, focusing on small farmers, and improving the lives of women farmers.
7. Institution Builder: He established research foundations and centers, such as the International Rice Research Institute, contributing to agricultural research and innovation.
8. Enduring Commitment: Prof. Swaminathan's life demonstrates the power of knowledge, mentorship, and innovation, inspiring future generations in the pursuit of agricultural sustainability.
9. Ongoing Legacy: To honor Prof. Swaminathan, it is crucial to champion the cause of farmers, promote scientific innovation in agriculture, and ensure the benefits reach India's agricultural landscape, fostering growth and prosperity for years to come.

#### **Prelims Facts**

Prof. M S Swaminathan was a visionary figure in agricultural science, known as the "Father of the Indian Green Revolution." His work significantly increased wheat production in India and contributed to the country's food self-sufficiency.

#### **Mains - Easy Language**

A few days ago, we lost a remarkable person, Professor M S Swaminathan. He was a visionary in the field of agriculture, and his contributions to India will always be remembered.

Prof. Swaminathan deeply loved India and wanted our country, especially our farmers, to have prosperous lives. He was very bright academically and could have chosen any career. However, he was deeply affected by the Bengal famine of 1943. This tragedy inspired him to dedicate his life to studying agriculture.

At a young age, he learned about the work of Dr. Norman Borlaug and was so inspired that he turned down a faculty position in the United States. He wanted to work for India and with India's farmers.

In the early years after India gained independence, we faced many challenges, including food shortages. In the early 1960s, India was on the verge of famine. It was Prof. Swaminathan's unwavering commitment and foresight that brought a new era of agricultural prosperity to India.

His groundbreaking work, especially in wheat breeding, led to a significant increase in wheat production. India went from not having enough food to becoming self-sufficient. This achievement earned him the title "Father of the Indian Green Revolution."





The Green Revolution showed that India has the spirit to overcome challenges with innovation. Prof. Swaminathan believed in the power of Indian minds to find solutions to problems.

Even today, Indian agriculture has become more modern and progressive. But we must never forget the foundations laid by Prof. Swaminathan.

Over the years, he did research on parasites affecting potato crops and made them more resilient to cold weather. He also promoted the idea of millets as superfoods back in the 1990s.

I had the privilege of working with Prof. Swaminathan when I was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat was facing challenges like droughts and natural disasters. We launched initiatives like the Soil Health Card with his valuable input, which greatly benefited our state's agriculture.

Prof. Swaminathan believed in sustainable agriculture and cared about small farmers and women in farming.

His contributions go beyond academics; they have a real impact on the fields and farms of India. He bridged the gap between scientific knowledge and practical application.

He also believed in sharing knowledge and mentoring others. He won the World Food Prize in 1987 and used the prize money to set up a research foundation. He nurtured countless minds and instilled in them a passion for learning and innovation.

In a changing world, Prof. Swaminathan's life reminds us of the enduring power of knowledge, mentorship, and innovation. He was not just a scientist; he was a Farmers' Scientist.

We must continue his work, champion the cause of farmers, and ensure that scientific innovations benefit every corner of our agricultural landscape, bringing growth, sustainability, and prosperity to future generations.

### **The Art of Letting it be- Indian Express Editorial**

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **RBI's Monetary Policy Review:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently decided to keep interest rates unchanged and maintained its stance of withdrawing accommodation in its October meeting.
2. **Domestic Inflation Concerns:** Unanticipated inflation risks, particularly related to food items like tomatoes and volatile crude oil prices, have influenced the RBI's cautious approach.
3. **External Factors:** Global central banks, especially the US Federal Reserve, have been tightening monetary policy due to inflation concerns and a rise in crude oil prices, impacting India's policy decisions.
4. **Incomplete Transmission:** The transmission of rate hikes to bank lending and deposit rates remains incomplete, prompting the RBI to maintain a "withdrawal of accommodation" stance.
5. **Global Monetary Policy Landscape:** Advanced economies have raised rates more aggressively than emerging markets like India, with potential implications for capital flows, currency exchange rates, and inflation.
6. **Impact on Indian Economy:** Despite challenges like expensive crude oil, a weaker rupee, and food inflation from erratic monsoons, India's economic growth has remained resilient.
7. **RBI's Inflation Forecast:** The RBI has raised its inflation forecast for the fiscal year to 5.4%, acknowledging the impact of food inflation, particularly in July-September.
8. **Concerns Over Food Inflation:** Inflation in cereals, pulses, and spices remains a concern, with weather conditions like El Niño and reservoir levels affecting agricultural production.



| Clear your doubts now.



9. **Crude Oil Price Volatility:** Rising and volatile crude oil prices pose risks to India due to its heavy dependence on imports. These prices can impact inflation, the current account, fiscal deficit, and growth.
10. **Inflation Expectations:** Inflation expectations have remained anchored, but policymakers are monitoring them closely. Business inflation expectations have slightly increased, while household inflation expectations have eased.
11. **Economic Growth Outlook:** The RBI maintains its GDP growth outlook at 6.5% for the fiscal year, but CRISIL expects it to be 6% due to global economic slowdown, domestic rate hikes' effects, and weather-related challenges.
12. **MPC's Policy Stance:** Given the potential for supply shocks from food or fuel and the uncertain global economic situation, the MPC is likely to keep interest rates stable in the near term.

### **Prelims Facts**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to maintain its current interest rates and continue withdrawing accommodation in its latest monetary policy review.

### **Mains - Easy Language**

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had a meeting to discuss our country's money policies. They decided to keep interest rates as they are and not make any changes for now. This decision is because of some challenges we are facing.

One challenge is the rising prices of certain foods like tomatoes, which have increased a lot. Another issue is the fluctuating and increasing cost of crude oil, which we mainly import. These factors make it tough to control inflation (the increase in prices of goods and services).

The RBI also noted that the interest rate changes they've made in the past have not fully affected the interest rates banks offer to people. So, they want to be cautious and keep their stance of withdrawing accommodation.

This cautious approach is partly due to actions taken by central banks in other countries, especially the United States, to control inflation. These actions impact India as well. The US has increased its interest rates much more than India, and this can affect our economy and currency value.

Despite these challenges, India's economy has remained strong, even with expensive crude oil and other difficulties. However, we must remain careful.

Food prices, especially for items like cereals and spices, are still high. Weather conditions like El Niño and water levels in reservoirs can affect agriculture and food production.

Crude oil prices are also a concern because we import around 85% of our oil. If these prices continue to rise, it can lead to higher production and transportation costs, which can cause inflation to increase.

Although inflation (rising prices) is a concern, people's expectations about future prices have remained stable. This is a good sign because it means people don't expect prices to keep rising rapidly.

The RBI has also mentioned that India's economic growth may not be as high as before due to factors like a global economic slowdown, higher interest rates, and unpredictable weather affecting agriculture.

Considering all these factors, the RBI is likely to keep interest rates steady for a while to carefully manage the economy.

**9<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

### **Toofan Al Aqsa jolts West Asian Geostrategic Architecture-The Hindu Editorial**

-International Relations

### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Historical Parallels:** The Hamas operation "Toofan AlAqsa" has similarities with the Yom Kippur War 50 years ago, which led to a significant regional shift.
2. **Geostrategic Shift:** The current situation might lead to a similar geostrategic change as the Yom Kippur War.



| Clear your doubts now.



3. **Israel's Military Position:** Israel is not under a significant threat and is expected to push back Hamas. A possible ground incursion into Gaza might be on the horizon.
4. **Hamas's Media Impact:** The images from the Hamas blitzkrieg have created lasting social media icons, potentially boosting the standing of non-state Arab militias.
5. **Palestinian Authority's Position:** The Palestinian Authority is divided, with Hamas and Islamic Jihad trying to establish their influence in the West Bank.
6. **Regional Support for Hamas:** Most regional powers do not support Hamas, with exceptions like Turkey and Iran.
7. **Likelihood of a Long War:** A prolonged war between Hamas and Israel seems unlikely unless negotiations over Israeli hostages break down.
8. **Israel's Government Stance:** Israel's current government faces a significant decision, with the possibility of a harder stance against Palestinians.
9. **Regional Geopolitical Impact:** The situation might delay the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Israel and affect other regional agreements.
10. **Impact on India:** India might face indirect consequences, such as rising oil prices and potential impacts on economic corridors.

#### Prelims-Facts

1. The Hamas operation is called "Toofan AlAqsa."
2. The Yom Kippur War occurred 50 years ago.
3. The Camp David Accords took place six years after the Yom Kippur War.
4. Hamas and Islamic Jihad are Gaza-based Sunni outfits.
5. Egypt is the only Arab neighbor of Gaza.
6. Over 200 Palestinians and 30 Israelis have died this year due to the surge in violence.

#### Mains- Easy Language

The article talks about the similarities between a recent Hamas operation and a war that happened 50 years ago. This war from the past led to big changes in the region. Now, people are wondering if the current situation will lead to similar changes. Right now, Israel is in a strong position and is expected to win against Hamas. However, the images from the war have made Hamas popular on social media. The Palestinian leaders are divided, and not many countries in the region support Hamas. But countries like Turkey and Iran might help them. It's not likely that this war will go on for a long time unless there are problems with negotiations over hostages. Israel's government might take a tougher stance because of this situation. This whole event might change the relationship between some countries in the region. For India, this situation might lead to higher oil prices and affect some big projects. But it could also make India look like a safe place for foreign investments.

#### What caused the flood in Sikkim?- The Hindu Text&Context

-Environment

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Sikkim Disaster:** Over 25 people have been confirmed dead, with many more missing due to a massive flood caused by a glacier lake outburst in Sikkim on October 4. The flood destroyed the Chungthang dam, affecting several hydropower projects.
2. **Glacier Lake Outburst:** Known as Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), it occurs when large lakes formed from melting glaciers break free from their natural dams made of rock, sediment, and debris.
3. **South Lhonak Glacier:** Located in north Sikkim, it's one of the fastest retreating glaciers. It has receded significantly over the years. The Himalayas have around 7,500 glaciers, with GLOFs causing major disasters.





4. **Cause of Sikkim GLOF:** The exact cause is uncertain. Satellite images show a significant drainage from the glacier-fed lake. Factors like excess rainfall, earthquakes in Nepal, and the glacier's location might have contributed.
5. **Resulting Damage:** The most evident damage was the destruction of the Chungthang dam. The flood affected communication, infrastructure, and power generation. 11 bridges were destroyed, and over 1,000 people took shelter in relief camps.
6. **Future Risks:** Studies warn of increasing GLOF events in the Himalayas due to climate change and human interventions like dam construction. Proper planning, early warning systems, and coordination among agencies are crucial.

#### Prelims-Facts

1. The flood destroyed the Chungthang dam and affected hydropower projects.
2. Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) happens when glacier-formed lakes break free.
3. South Lhonak glacier in Sikkim is one of the fastest retreating glaciers.

**Mains- Easy Language** The article talks about a big flood in Sikkim on October 4. This flood happened because a glacier lake broke free and caused a lot of water to flow out. This kind of flood is called a Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). Because of this flood, more than 25 people died, and many are missing. The flood also destroyed a dam called Chungthang and stopped some power projects. The South Lhonak glacier in Sikkim is melting fast, and this is a big concern. There have been other big floods like this in the past because of glaciers. People are not sure why this flood happened in Sikkim. Some think it might be because of heavy rain or earthquakes. The flood caused a lot of damage. It broke bridges, stopped power projects, and many people had to leave their homes. Experts say that these kinds of floods might happen more in the future because of climate change and how we are using the land. They say we need to be careful and have systems to warn people if a flood might happen.

#### How the Digital India Act will shape the future of the country's cyber landscape- The Hindu Text&Context

-Science tech Technologies

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Digital Evolution:** Countries are updating legal systems for the digital age.
2. **India's Move:** India's 'Digital India' initiative leads to the announcement of the Digital India Act 2023 (DIA).
3. **Replacing the Old:** DIA to replace the Information Technology Act of 2000.
4. **Motivation:** Align India's regulations with the 21st-century digital revolution.
5. **User Growth:** India's internet users grew from 5.5 million to 850 million.
6. **Key Provisions:** DIA focuses on online safety, new-age technologies, open internet, and reviews the "safe harbour" principle.
7. **Challenges:** Potential impact on innovation, freedom of expression, and effective enforcement.

#### Prelims-Facts

1. The Digital India Act is set to be introduced in 2023.
2. The Information Technology Act of 2000 will be replaced by the DIA.
3. India's internet user base has increased from 5.5 million in 2000 to 850 million.
4. DIA will introduce KYC requirements for wearable devices.
5. The "safe harbour" principle shields online platforms from liability for user-generated content.

#### Mains- Easy Language

The world is changing fast, especially when it comes to technology and the internet. Every country is trying to update its laws to keep up with these changes. India is doing the same with its 'Digital India' plan. They have announced a new law called the Digital India Act 2023 (DIA). This new law will replace an old one from 2000. The main reason for this new law is to make sure India's rules







are up-to-date with the latest technology trends. For example, when the old law was made, there were only 5.5 million people using the internet in India. Now, there are 850 million!

The DIA has some important points. It wants to make sure everyone is safe online and that people's rights are protected. It also talks about new technologies like artificial intelligence and how to use them responsibly. The law also wants to make sure that the internet remains open and free for everyone. But, there are some challenges. Some people are worried that the new rules might make it hard for businesses and could limit freedom of speech. It's important to watch how this new law is put into action to make sure it helps everyone and keeps up with the times.

### [Food inflation limited to dal roti, why govt policy may need changes- Indian Express Explained](#)

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Inflation Concerns:** Consumer food prices rose by 9.9% in August, with overall retail inflation at 6.8%, surpassing RBI's target.
2. **Central Bank's Stance:** RBI's monetary policy committee expresses concerns about the impact of rising food prices on inflation.
3. **Election Implications:** With national elections in six months, the Centre is likely concerned about inflation.
4. **Major Contributors:** Cereals and pulses are the primary drivers of food inflation.
5. **Vegetable Prices:** Prices of vegetables, especially tomatoes, are stabilizing.
6. **Government Strategy:** The focus is on keeping food inflation low, but there's a need to balance consumer and producer interests.
7. **Vegetable Oils:** Record imports of edible oil and low tariffs impact domestic soybean prices.
8. **Milk Production:** The "flush" season for milk sees a surplus, but there are concerns about adulterated ghee in the market.

#### **Prelims-Facts**

1. RBI's inflation target is 4% with an upper tolerance limit of 6%.
2. Cereals and pulses saw an inflation of 11.9% and 13% respectively in August.
3. Tomato prices have dropped from Rs 130 two months ago to Rs 20 now.
4. India's vegetable oil imports are expected to reach 17 million tonnes in 2022-23.
5. Milk shortages were at their peak in February-March 2023.

#### **Mains- Easy Language**

The prices of things we buy, especially food, are going up. The bank that controls money in India, called RBI, is worried because things are getting more expensive faster than they want. This is a big deal, especially because there are big elections coming up in six months. When we look closely, we see that the prices of some foods like cereals and pulses are going up a lot. But, the price of vegetables like tomatoes is coming down. The government is trying to make sure things don't get too expensive, but they also need to think about the people who grow and sell these foods. For example, farmers are getting less money for soybeans because we are buying a lot of cheap oil from other countries. Also, there's a lot of milk now because the weather is good for cows to produce milk. But, some people are mixing cheap oil in ghee, which is not good. So, the government needs to be careful about how they control prices, especially when it's mostly about certain foods like dal (pulses) and roti (cereals).

### [The Yom Kippur War-Indian Express Explained](#)

-International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Surprise Attack:** Hamas launched an unexpected attack on Israel, reminiscent of the Yom Kippur war.



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2. **Yom Kippur War Overview:** Fought between Israel and the combined forces of Egypt and Syria from October 6-25, 1973. It's also known as the Fourth Arab-Israeli war.
3. **Background:** After winning the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel captured territories including the Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula. In 1973, Egypt and Syria coordinated an attack during the Islamic month of Ramadan.
4. **Israel's Response:** Israel was caught off-guard as many soldiers were on leave for Yom Kippur. After initial losses, Israel counterattacked and received support from the US, while the USSR backed Egypt and Syria.
5. **Ceasefire:** The first UN-brokered ceasefire didn't last, but by October 25, a lasting ceasefire was in place, with Israel's image of invincibility tarnished.
6. **Significance:** The war showed that Israel could be challenged in battle. The aftermath led to the 1978 Camp David Accords and the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, with Egypt becoming the first Arab nation to recognize Israel. However, Syria gained nothing, and Israel continued to occupy the Golan Heights.
7. **Current Violence Comparison:** The recent attack by Hamas is the deadliest since the Yom Kippur war, and Israel was criticized for being unprepared despite its advanced intelligence systems. The attack coincided with the Jewish observance of Simchat Torah.

### Prelims-Facts

1. The Yom Kippur war is also known as the Fourth Arab-Israeli war.
2. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt in 1967.
3. The 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty marked Egypt's recognition of Israel.

### Mains- Easy Language

Hamas attacked Israel recently, and it reminded people of an old war called the Yom Kippur war. This war happened in 1973 between Israel and two countries, Egypt and Syria. Israel had won a big war in 1967 and took some land from these countries. But in 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel when many Israeli soldiers were celebrating a religious holiday. At first, Egypt and Syria were winning, but then Israel fought back. Big countries like the US and Russia got involved too. In the end, there was peace, but Israel's strong image was hurt. This war changed things because it showed that Israel could be challenged. After the war, Israel and Egypt made a peace deal. But Syria didn't get anything good from the war. The recent attack by Hamas is being compared to the Yom Kippur war because it was a big surprise and happened during another Jewish holiday.

### [Arc of India's ties with Israel- Indian Express Explained](#)

-International Relations

### Key Takeaways

1. **Hamas Attack:** Hamas, ruling the Gaza Strip, launched a significant attack on Israel, described by many as the worst since Israel's creation in 1948.
2. **India's Response:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed shock and solidarity with Israel, which some interpret as siding with Israel. Official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs is awaited.
3. **India-Israel-Palestine Relations:** India's stance towards Israel was initially influenced by leaders like Nehru and Gandhi, who supported the Palestinian cause. India voted against Israel's UN admission but recognized Israel in 1950. Relations with Palestine were strengthened with the recognition of PLO in 1975.
4. **Shift in Relations:** India's stance began to shift in the 1990s, influenced by geopolitical changes and the rise of the BJP. India established full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992.
5. **Military Cooperation:** Israel assisted India during the Kargil war in 1999 by providing precision target bombs.
6. **Modi's Approach:** PM Modi's 2017 visit to Israel marked a significant shift, as he did not visit Palestine. However, he visited Palestine separately in 2018.





7. **Recent Developments:** Over the past decade, India has deepened ties with Israel and other West Asian countries. India's strategic approach is influenced by its large diaspora in the region and energy imports from West Asia.
8. **Current Situation:** The recent attacks challenge the Abraham Accords and the budding relationship between Saudi Arabia and Israel. India hoped to benefit from the peace in the region.

#### Prelims-Facts

1. India recognized Israel in 1950.
2. India recognized the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people in 1975.
3. India established full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992.

#### Mains- Easy Language

Hamas, a group from Gaza, attacked Israel in a big way. Many say it's the worst attack since Israel was made in 1948. India's leader, PM Modi, was shocked and showed support for Israel. This made some people think India is taking Israel's side. In the past, India supported Palestine more. Leaders like Nehru and Gandhi said they were with Palestine. But things changed over time. In the 1990s, India started being closer to Israel. Israel even helped India in a war in 1999. PM Modi visited Israel in 2017 and then Palestine in 2018, showing that India is friends with both. But now, with these new attacks, things are complicated. India wanted peace in the area because it helps with business and energy. But the new fights might change things.

#### [Aditya-L1 corrects trajectory as it moves closer to Sun: why, how this was done-Indian Express Explained](#)

-Science tech Space

#### Key Takeaways

1. **ISRO's Achievement:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully executed a Trajectory Correction Maneuver (TCM) for the Aditya-L1 spacecraft. This is to ensure its arrival at the Sun Earth Lagrangian point 1.
2. **Aditya-L1's Journey:** The spacecraft is set to undertake a 110-day space journey, marking one of the longest for an Indian spacecraft since the Mars mission of 2013-2014.
3. **Need for TCM:** ISRO scientists had anticipated the need for a TCM for Aditya-L1 shortly after its launch towards the L1 point. This is due to the extended distances involved in deep space missions, which necessitate trajectory correction plans.
4. **What is TCM?:** Trajectory Correction Manoeuvres are adjustments made to ensure a spacecraft remains on its planned path. These manoeuvres are essential, especially for long-duration missions, to correct any deviations that might have long-term implications.
5. **Previous TCMs:** ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission, which took place between 2013 and 2014, required three TCMs.
6. **Aditya-L1's Orbit:** Once Aditya-L1 reaches the L1 point in January 2024, it will execute a manoeuvre to orbit around L1, a balanced gravitational location between Earth and the Sun. This orbit is challenging to acquire and maintain.
7. **Past TCMs by ISRO:** Deep space missions typically require TCMs. For instance, the Mars Orbiter Mission underwent three TCMs to ensure it reached the correct trajectory near Mars.

#### Prelims-Facts

1. The spacecraft began its journey towards the L1 point on September 19.
2. The Mars Orbiter Mission required three TCMs.

#### Mains- Easy Language

ISRO did a special move called a Trajectory Correction Maneuver (TCM) for a spacecraft called Aditya-L1. This is to make sure it goes to a special point between the Earth and the Sun. The spacecraft will travel in space for 110 days, which is one of the longest times for an Indian spacecraft. Sometimes, when spacecrafts travel for a long time, they might go a little off their path. So, ISRO does these TCMs to make sure they stay on the right path. They did this before for another mission to Mars. When Aditya-L1





reaches its special point in 2024, it will move around in a special way between the Earth and the Sun. This is hard to do, but ISRO has planned for it. They have done these special moves in the past for other long trips in space.

### The Rise of Services-Indian Express Editorials

-Economy

#### Key Takeaways

1. **India's Services Sector Evolution:** India's services sector is undergoing two significant transformations. Firstly, there's a rapid evolution in services exports to the global market. Secondly, domestic services are modernizing quickly. These services are not only modernizing but also moving up the value chain and integrating with manufacturing.
2. **Services Exports Growth:** Services exports have seen a net increase of \$60 billion in revenues over the past three years. The pandemic boosted IT services as remote work surged, leading to a higher demand for tech solutions. India has progressed from being a call centre hub in the 1990s to offering a wide range of professional services today.
3. **Diverse Service Providers:** While large IT firms continue to grow, mid-sized IT companies and consulting firms are also expanding. India now holds the largest share in Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which have evolved from providing tech support to offering high-value services.
4. **Future of IT Services Exports:** Although there might be a moderation in the growth of IT services exports due to global economic factors, the structural growth elements suggest a positive outlook. Factors like a shift in work attitudes, diverse skills portfolio, cost-competitiveness, and reaching a tipping point in global services exports contribute to this optimism.
5. **MNCs in India:** Many multinational companies are expanding their services in India, and some are even transitioning into manufacturing, highlighting the synergy between services and manufacturing.
6. **Domestic Services and Manufacturing:** India's robust digital public infrastructure has given rise to numerous tech startups. These startups, initially focused on services, are gradually venturing into manufacturing and agriculture. By leveraging digital infrastructure, startups can address challenges faced by small manufacturers, potentially revitalizing the manufacturing sector.
7. **Significance:** The integration of modern services with manufacturing can potentially drive growth and job creation in India's economy.

#### Prelims-Facts

1. Services exports have increased by \$60 billion in the last three years.
2. India has the world's largest share in GCCs.
3. In 2022-23, around 1,600 GCCs had a market value of \$46 billion.

#### Mains- Easy Language

India's service sector is changing in two big ways. First, we are selling more services to other countries. Second, our own services inside India are getting better. This is good because these services are also helping our factories. Now, we earn \$60 billion more from selling services than we did three years ago. This is because many companies needed more computer services during the pandemic. India is now doing more than just call centers or simple computer work. We are doing many professional jobs like accounting, law, and research. Many different companies are growing in India, not just the big ones. We also have many Global Capability Centres (GCCs) which are like support centers for big companies. These GCCs are doing more high-level work now. Even though we might see a small drop in how much we earn from these services soon, we think it will grow again in the future. This is because many things are changing, like how we work from home, and India has many skilled people. We also do the work at a lower cost. We think India will grow even faster in this area soon. Many big companies from other countries are also starting to make things in India, not just services. At the same time, new Indian companies are trying to help our factories. This is important



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because we need more jobs in factories. So, the growth in services can help our factories grow too. This is a big chance for India's growth and jobs.

### Games to remember-Indian Express Editorial

-Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. India clinched 107 medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games, joining the elite three-digit medal tally club.
2. Traditional strengths like shooting, hockey, wrestling, and kabaddi were pivotal; shooting alone secured 22 medals.
3. Neeraj Chopra's consistent javelin performance was a highlight.
4. Compound archery dominated but isn't an Olympic sport, leading China to overlook it.
5. Wrestling and boxing need to enhance their gold-winning capabilities before the Paris Games.
6. Satwiksairaj RankiReddy and Chirag Shetty achieved a historic gold in men's doubles badminton.
7. Roshibina Devi's silver in Wushu spotlighted issues like unrest in Manipur and China's restrictive visa policy.
8. Cricket's inclusion in multi-sport games was questioned due to rain interruptions.
9. Significant victories against China in table tennis and consistent performances in hockey and kabaddi indicate India's sporting progress.

#### **Prelims-Facts**

1. India won 107 medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games.
2. Shooting contributed 22 medals, with 7 golds.
3. Athletics secured 29 medals.

#### **Mains- Easy Language**

India did really well at the Hangzhou Asian Games by winning 107 medals. This is the first time we've won so many medals, and it's a big deal. We did especially well in sports like shooting, hockey, wrestling, and kabaddi. In shooting, we won the most medals out of all countries. Neeraj Chopra, who throws the javelin, also did great. Now, everyone is thinking about how we'll do in the next Olympics. Some sports we did well in, like archery, aren't even in the Olympics. We need to do better in wrestling, rowing, and boxing to win more gold medals in Paris. Some of our best athletes, like Vinesh Phogat in wrestling and Nikhat Zareen in boxing, didn't win gold this time. We need to support them better. In badminton, we won a special gold medal in men's doubles. But there were also some sad moments. Roshibina Devi, who won silver in Wushu, cried because of problems in her home state, Manipur. And some players from Arunachal Pradesh couldn't even compete because of China's rules. Cricket won two golds, but many people are asking if it should be in these games because rain can stop the matches. One of the best moments was when two of our table tennis players beat China. We also did well in hockey and kabaddi. Winning against big countries like China and Japan shows we are getting better in sports.

### The Twain don't meet- Indian Express Ideas

-International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Diplomatic Dispute:** A diplomatic row emerged between India and Canada due to the assassination of a pro-Khalistan activist.
2. **Historical Context:** The author recalls a 1989 talk in Montreal about the aftermath of Operation Blue Star and its impact on the Sikh community.
3. **Three Punjabs:** The article identifies three distinct Punjabs: Diaspora Punjab (abroad), Indian Punjab, and Pakistan Punjab.



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4. **Diaspora Punjab's Politics:** The New Democratic Party (NDP) in Canada, led by Jagmeet Singh, is pro-Khalistan. Young Canadian Sikhs have been influenced by the politics of the 1980s.
5. **Indian Punjab's Progress:** Indian Punjab has moved on from Operation Blue Star, emphasizing respect for religious groups and seeking justice for the 1984 Sikh killings.
6. **Cultural Identity:** Indian Punjab has a secular Punjabi identity, while Diaspora Punjab remains divided between Sikhs and non-Sikhs.
7. **Political Controversy:** The killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar has intensified the separatist narrative, with the issue of Khalistan now being shaped by Diaspora Punjab.

#### **Prelims-Facts**

1. Operation Blue Star was a significant event that impacted the Sikh community in India.
2. The New Democratic Party (NDP) in Canada is pro-Khalistan and holds a balancing position in the current coalition government.
3. 83.87% of Punjabi Hindus mentioned Punjabi as their mother tongue in the 1991 census.
4. The Moga declaration by the SAD emphasises Punjab, Punjabi, and Punjabiati.

#### **Mains- Easy Language**

The article discusses a diplomatic issue between India and Canada due to the death of a pro-Khalistan activist. The author remembers a talk from 1989 in Montreal, where he discussed the effects of Operation Blue Star on the Sikh community. This operation had lasting impacts, especially on leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The article then talks about the different perspectives of Punjabis based on their location: those abroad (Diaspora Punjab), those in India, and those in Pakistan. In Canada, many Sikhs support Khalistan, and this sentiment is strong in the New Democratic Party led by Jagmeet Singh. However, in India, the focus has shifted from the past events, and there's a push for justice for the Sikhs affected in 1984. The article ends by highlighting the need for closure and understanding between the two nations, especially after the recent political controversies.

**10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

#### **Original Sin- The Hindu Editorial**

-International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Surprise Attack by Hamas:** Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, resulting in the death of approximately 700 people.
2. **Reminder of the Situation:** The attack highlights the unsustainable situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the threat non state actors like Hamas pose to Israel.
3. **Tensions in the West Bank:** The West Bank has been a hotspot for violence, with daily incidents in recent months.
4. **Israeli Government's Stance:** Despite the ongoing violence, the Benjamin Netanyahu government prioritised other policies, including judiciary reforms.
5. **Hamas's History:** Hamas, known for its suicide attacks in the 1990s and early 2000s, dealt a significant blow to Israel with this attack.
6. **Moral and Pragmatic Concerns:** The attack raises questions about Hamas's indiscriminate violence and its impact on the Palestinian cause.
7. **Palestinian Territories:** The territories have been under occupation for a long time, with no active peace process in place.
8. **Israel's Actions:** Israel has continued its settlement activities, imposed movement restrictions, and used force against Palestinians.





9. **Geopolitical Realignments:** West Asia has seen significant geopolitical shifts, but the occupation of Palestine remains unaddressed.
10. **Need for a Solution:** For lasting peace, the focus should be on resolving the Palestine issue rather than just military operations.

### Mains- Easy Language

Hamas, a group from Palestine, suddenly attacked Israel and many people died. This attack reminds everyone that the problems between Israel and Palestine are not solved. The West Bank, a place in Palestine, has seen many fights recently. Israel's government, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, didn't pay much attention to this. Instead, they were busy with other things. Hamas, which used to do suicide attacks, has now done a big attack on Israel. This attack is wrong because it hurts innocent people. But, Palestine has been controlled by others for a long time and they are very angry about it. Israel has been making homes in places that Palestinians believe are theirs. They also stop Palestinians from moving freely. Because of all this, some Palestinians support groups like Hamas. Now, Israel wants to fight back. But just fighting won't solve the problem. Everyone needs to come together and find a solution to the bigger problem, which is the fight between Israel and Palestine.

### Glittering Show- The Hindu Editorial

-Sociology

### Key Takeaways

1. **Historic Achievement:** India's performance at the Hangzhou Asian Games marks a significant milestone in its sports history.
2. **Medal Tally:** India secured 107 medals, including 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze, surpassing its previous best of 70 medals in Jakarta 2018.
3. **Diverse Excellence:** Gold medals were majorly won in track and field, shooting, and archery. However, India showcased its prowess across 22 different sports.
4. **New Heroes:** India saw first-time gold in equestrian and found champions in lesser-known sports like roller skating, windsurfing, wushu, and sepaktakraw.
5. **Cricket's Contribution:** Cricket, usually separate from such events, added two gold medals to India's tally.
6. **Memorable Moments:** Parul Chaudhary's win in the women's 5000m and Kishore Jena's performance in men's Javelin were standout moments.
7. **Value of Medals:** Some sports like badminton and table tennis have world-class competition in Asia, making medals in these disciplines more prestigious.
8. **Olympic Perspective:** Out of the 28 golds, only 12 were in Olympic events, indicating the need for improvement to meet global standards.
9. **Challenges Ahead:** Despite the progress, Indian sports face challenges like inefficient administration, internal disputes, legal issues, and doping concerns.

### Prelims Facts

1. India won over a hundred medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games.
2. The country achieved its best-ever medal tally with 107 medals.
3. Gold medals were majorly won in track and field, shooting, and archery.
4. India secured medals in 22 different sports.
5. Cricket contributed two gold medals to the tally.

### Mains- Easy Language



| Clear your doubts now.



India did really well at the Hangzhou Asian Games, winning more than a hundred medals! This is the best we've ever done, even better than the last time in Jakarta where we won 70 medals. We won golds in running, shooting, and archery. But what's even cooler is that we won medals in 22 different sports! We even got our first gold medal in horse riding. Cricket, which usually doesn't take part in these games, also won two golds for us. Some moments were super exciting, like when Parul Chaudhary won in running and Kishore Jena did great in Javelin throw. Winning in badminton and table tennis is special because the competition is really tough in Asia. But, we need to remember that we still have to improve a lot to be the best in the world. The government is trying to help athletes, but there are some problems like bad management and doping. We need to fix these issues to keep doing well in sports.

### **Mental health and the floundering informal worker- The Hindu Editorial**

-Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **World Mental Health Day Theme:** This year's theme emphasizes 'mental health as a universal human right'.
2. **Informal Workers and Mental Health:** Informal workers, often overlooked, face significant mental health challenges due to their work conditions.
3. **India's Informal Workforce:** Over 90% of India's working population is in the informal sector, facing challenges like unsafe environments, long hours, and discrimination.
4. **Gender Disparities:** Over 95% of working women in India are in informal, low-paying jobs, facing additional challenges from patriarchal structures.
5. **Youth and Employment:** High youth unemployment in India, combined with the stigma around it, adversely affects their mental health.
6. **Ageing Society:** India will soon become an ageing society, with many elderly people working in informal sectors post-retirement, facing financial and health insecurities.
7. **Social Security Concerns:** Informal workers experience mental distress due to debt, rising healthcare costs, and lack of proper social security measures.
8. **Care for Mental Health:** Despite the significant contribution of informal workers, India's budgetary allocation for mental health is less than 1% of the total health budget.

#### **Prelims Facts**

1. World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10.
2. The International Labour Organization (ILO) states that 15% of working-age adults globally have a mental disorder.

#### **Mains- Easy Language**

World Mental Health Day this year is talking about how everyone has the right to good mental health. But, a lot of times, we forget about people who do jobs that aren't official or "informal" jobs. These people face a lot of challenges at work which can affect their mental health. In India, most of the people work in such jobs. They don't have proper work conditions, work for very long hours, and don't get benefits like insurance. Women, especially, face more problems in such jobs. Young people in India are also facing a lot of stress because many of them don't have jobs. Older people in India are also working in these informal jobs after they retire because they don't have enough money or support. All these problems affect their mental health. The government needs to do more to help these people. They need to make sure everyone has good jobs, safety, and support for their mental health. Right now, the money the government is spending on mental health is very less. We need to do better to make sure everyone in India is healthy and happy.

### **The End of the 2 state solution- The Hindu Opinion**



| Clear your doubts now.





-International Relations

### Key Takeaways

1. **Central Theme:** The long-standing Jewish-Arab conflict's solution has always been the creation of two countries for two people.
2. **Historical Perspective:** Historically, Jews were open to partition, while Arabs opposed it. Recently, the roles seem reversed with Israel hesitating on a two-state solution.
3. **Stakeholders:** While many entities are involved, the real decision power lies with the Israeli public due to Israel's democratic nature.
4. **Hamas's Actions:** Hamas doesn't recognize Israel's right to exist and has attacked Israel's borders, targeting its very existence.
5. **Israeli Fears:** Israelis fear that a sovereign Palestinian state might empower more attacks on Israel, especially if it behaves like Hamas.
6. **Central Obstacle:** The main challenge to a two-state solution isn't the occupation but the Palestinians' inability to assure Israelis of peace post-partition.
7. **Current Scenario:** Radical Israeli groups, once on the margins, now play a significant role, reflecting growing distrust towards Palestinians.
8. **Palestinian Perspective:** Palestinians believe that making Israeli civilians feel their pain might lead to change. However, from an Israeli viewpoint, such attacks only deepen mistrust.
9. **Future Outlook:** For a peaceful resolution, Palestinians need to convince Israelis of peaceful coexistence. Given recent events, this seems challenging.

### Prelims Facts

1. Hamas does not recognize Israel's right to exist.
2. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza began in 1967.

### Mains- Easy Language

The Jewish and Arab conflict has been going on for a long time. The best solution has always been to create two separate countries for both groups. In the past, Jews were okay with this idea, but Arabs weren't. Now, it seems like the situation has changed. Many people and countries have opinions on this issue, but the most important opinion is that of the Israeli public. This is because Israel has the most power in this situation. Recently, a group called Hamas attacked Israel. This has made many Israelis scared and unsure about creating a separate Palestinian state. They worry that if Palestinians get their own country, they might attack Israel even more. The main problem has always been trust. Israelis need to believe that if Palestinians get their own country, they won't attack Israel. But with recent attacks and the growing power of groups that don't trust Palestinians, this seems hard. Palestinians feel that they need to make Israelis understand their pain to get their own country. But every time they attack, Israelis trust them less. The future looks uncertain, and both sides need to find a way to trust each other for peace.

## The State of India's Scheduled Areas- The Hindu Text & Context

-Polity

### Key Takeaways

1. **Scheduled Tribes in India**
  - India has 705 Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.
  - They constitute 8.6% of the country's population.
  - They reside in 26 States and six Union Territories.

### 2. Constitutional Provisions



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- Article 244 is crucial for STs, focusing on the administration of Scheduled and Tribal Areas.
- Article 244(1) applies the Fifth Schedule to Scheduled Areas in specific states.
- The Sixth Schedule is applicable to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

### 3.Scheduled Areas

- Cover 11.3% of India's land.
- Notified in 10 states.
- Kerala's 2015 proposal to notify certain areas as Scheduled Areas is pending.

### 4.Governance of Scheduled Areas

- The President of India notifies Scheduled Areas.
- States with Scheduled Areas must form a Tribal Advisory Council.
- The Governor plays a pivotal role in the administration of Scheduled Areas.

### 5.Identification of Scheduled Areas

- The President has the exclusive power to declare an area as Scheduled.
- No specific criteria are set in the Constitution or law for identification.
- However, the Dhebar Commission Report of 1961 provides guiding norms.

### 6.Future Steps

- All habitations with a significant ST population should be notified as Scheduled Areas.
- The geographical limits of various administrative units should be redefined to ensure they are fully Scheduled Areas.

### Prelims Facts

1. Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India's land.
2. They have been notified in 10 states.
3. Article 244 of the Constitution deals with the administration of Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

## Mains- Easy Language

India has many communities known as Scheduled Tribes (STs). These communities live in different parts of India. The Constitution, which is like the rule book of India, has special rules for these communities. One of these rules is called Article 244. This rule talks about areas where many ST people live, called Scheduled Areas.

Now, what are these Scheduled Areas? They are special areas in India where many ST people live. These areas are in 10 states of India. But, some places where ST people live are not called Scheduled Areas. This is a problem because people in Scheduled Areas get special rights and benefits.

How do we decide which area is a Scheduled Area? The President of India decides this. But there are no clear rules on how to choose these areas. Some guidelines help, but they are not strict rules.

Now, how are these Scheduled Areas managed? The President tells which areas are Scheduled Areas. Then, in states with these areas, there is a special group called the Tribal Advisory Council. This group helps the state's leader, called the Governor, in making decisions for ST people.

But there's a problem. Even though we have these rules, many ST people don't get the benefits they should. This is because some areas where they live are not called Scheduled Areas. Also, some rules that should help ST people are not being used properly.

So, what should we do next? We should make sure that all places where many ST people live are called Scheduled Areas. This way, all ST people can get the special rights and benefits they deserve.

## [What is multimodal artificial intelligence and why is it important?- The Hindu Text & Context](#)

-Science and tech Technology

### Key Takeaways



| Clear your doubts now.



1. **Next Frontier of AI:** The future of AI is leaning towards multimodal systems, allowing users to interact with AI through various mediums.
2. **Human-like Cognition:** For AI to mimic human cognition, it needs to process information from images, sounds, videos, and text.
3. **Tech Race:** Leading AI companies are competing to develop advanced multimodal systems.
4. **OpenAI's Move:** OpenAI has integrated image analysis and speech synthesis in its GPT models.
5. **Google's Advantage:** Google's vast collection of images and videos gives it an edge in the multimodal domain.
6. **OpenAI's Strategy:** OpenAI is hiring experts and working on a new project, Gobi, a multimodal AI system.
7. **Understanding Multimodality:** Multimodal AI systems, like DALL.E and CLIP, link text and images during training.
8. **Applications:** Multimodal AI has applications in image captioning, meme detection, dialogue prediction, and more.
9. **Future of Multimodal AI:** Future AI systems might integrate sensory data like touch, speech, and even brain signals.
10. **Real-world Applications:** Multimodal AI can be used in virtual reality, autonomous driving, robotics, and medicine.

#### Prelims Facts

1. OpenAI announced the integration of image analysis in GPT3.5 and GPT4 models on September 25.
2. Google is testing its multimodal large language model called Gemini.
3. OpenAI released a multimodal text-to-image model, DALL.E, in 2021.
4. OpenAI's Whisper, a speech-to-text model, was released in September of the previous year.
5. Meta introduced ImageBind, a multimodal system with multiple sensory data modes.
6. Google Research's Health AI section is exploring the integration of multimodal AI in medicine.
7. Meta's SeamlessM4T model can perform translations in around 100 languages.

#### Mains- Easy Language

The future of AI is all about "multimodal systems". Imagine a computer that doesn't just understand text but can also understand pictures, sounds, and videos just like humans do. Right now, even though we have chatbots that can write poems and even pass exams, they still can't fully think like us. But, companies are racing to change that. OpenAI, a big tech company, recently made their AI models smarter by teaching them to understand pictures and even talk to people. They did this because another company, Google, is also working on a similar project. Google has an advantage because they have a lot of pictures and videos from their search engine and YouTube. But OpenAI is not far behind. They are hiring experts and even working on a brand-new project. Now, you might wonder, how does this "multimodal" thing work? Well, it's like teaching the computer to connect words with pictures. For example, if you tell the computer "apple", it can show you a picture of an apple. This is not a new idea. In fact, OpenAI already has models that can do this.

These multimodal systems have many uses. They can help in making virtual reality more real, where you not only see and hear but also feel things. Imagine being on a virtual beach and feeling the wind and the warmth of the sun! These systems can also help in driving cars, making robots, and even in medicine. For example, doctors can use it to understand complex medical images and get simple explanations. Another use is in translating languages. A model can listen to someone speaking in one language and then speak or write the translation in another language.

#### [Face the Climate- Indian Express Editorial](#)

-Environment Ecology

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Climate Extremes:** India experienced its hottest February and driest August since records began in 1901.
2. **Monsoon Anomalies:** Rains were unusually high in March, April, and May, with the southwest monsoon showing irregular patterns.



| Clear your doubts now.



3. **Business Impact:** Climate change is now considered the "single biggest business risk" by consumer goods companies.
4. **Farmers' Challenge:** While farmers have always dealt with monsoon uncertainties, climate change brings more unpredictable weather patterns.
5. **Non-Farm Business Effects:** Unpredictable weather affects sales and demand patterns for various products, from beverages to appliances.
6. **Adapting Business Strategies:** Companies need to adjust their expectations and diversify their products to cope with changing demand.
7. **Policy Implications:** Economic policymakers must factor in climate change in their growth and planning models.
8. **Knowledge Investment:** There's a need for more research on potential outcomes of extreme weather events and their probabilities.
9. **Collaborative Approach:** A national climate adaptation strategy should be developed with input from various sectors.

#### Prelims Facts

1. India's warmest February and driest August were recorded this year after 1901.
2. The southwest monsoon arrived on June 8 and covered the country by July 2.

#### Mains- Easy Language

This year, India saw some unusual weather. It was the hottest in February and the driest in August since we started keeping records in 1901. The rains also came at odd times. All these changes in the weather are signs of climate change. This isn't just a problem for farmers anymore. Even big companies that make things like ice-cream, drinks, and air-conditioners are feeling the effects. In the past, if the monsoon was bad, it mainly affected farmers. But now, even businesses are struggling because the weather is so unpredictable. For example, if it's not hot in the summer, people won't buy cold drinks or air-conditioners. So, companies need to think differently. They can't just rely on selling certain things in certain seasons. They need to have a variety of products to sell all year round.

But it's not just about businesses. Our country's leaders also need to think about how climate change will affect our economy. We need to invest in understanding what might happen in the future because of the changing weather. This includes things like finding out how to grow crops that can handle different temperatures or less water. We also need to be ready for big storms or heat waves. Since everyone is affected by climate change, we all need to work together. The government, businesses, weather experts, scientists, and others should come together to make a plan for how India can deal with these changes.

#### [A straw in the whirlwind- Indian Express Editorial](#)

-International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Hamas Attack:** The recent attack by Hamas on Israel has significant implications for both Israel's military reputation and regional peace efforts.
2. **Israel's Response:** Israel's counterattack on Gaza aims to restore its deterrence, but the effectiveness of this strategy remains uncertain.
3. **Political Impact:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces political challenges due to the loss of civilian lives and hostages taken by Hamas.
4. **Palestinian Authority (PA):** Hamas's success challenges the PA's leadership, which is perceived as corrupt and complicit with Israel.
5. **Iran's Influence:** With Iran's backing, Hamas aims to disrupt normalisation efforts between Israel and Gulf Arab states.
6. **Peace Negotiations:** The ongoing violence jeopardises potential peace agreements between Israel and Saudi Arabia.





7. Vision Clash: Iran and Hamas advocate for violent resistance, while Gulf states emphasise peace and stability. Both approaches have limitations.
8. Arab Peace Initiative: Proposed in 2002, this initiative offers a potential path to lasting peace, but its acceptance by Israel remains uncertain.
9. Future Outlook: Without a comprehensive peace solution, the cycle of violence is likely to continue.

#### **Prelims Facts**

1. The Arab Peace Initiative was proposed in 2002 by Saudi Arabia.

#### **Mains- Easy Language**

Hamas recently attacked Israel, which has caused a lot of problems. Israel, known for its strong military, was caught off guard. Now, they are trying to show their strength by attacking Gaza. But this might not help them get back their strong image. The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is in a tough spot because of this. Many Israelis have been hurt or taken by Hamas.

Hamas did this attack for two main reasons. First, they want to be the main group leading the Palestinians. The other group, the Palestinian Authority (PA), made a peace deal with Israel a long time ago, but it didn't help the Palestinians much. Many people think the PA is corrupt and too close to Israel. So, Hamas is trying to show that they are the real leaders. The second reason is that Hamas, with help from Iran, wants to stop peace talks between Israel and countries like Saudi Arabia. If these talks succeed, it would be bad for Hamas and Iran.

But why is all this happening? There are two main views. One is from Iran and Hamas. They want to get rid of Israel. But this is not possible because Israel is very strong and has support from Western countries, especially the US. The other view is from the Gulf countries. They want peace and good relations with everyone. But they haven't pushed hard enough for a Palestinian state, which is needed for real peace.

In 2002, Saudi Arabia had a plan for peace. They said if Israel goes back to its borders from before the 1967 war, all Arab countries will recognize and accept Israel. But Israel's current government doesn't want this. They want to keep the lands they took in 1967. This is causing more problems.

Right now, Israel is attacking Hamas in Gaza. But this won't solve the main problem. What's needed is a real peace plan. The US, Saudi Arabia, and Israel's politicians should think about the 2002 peace plan again. Only by making a Palestinian state can there be real peace. If not, there will be more violence in the future.

### **Place the Child at the Centre- Indian Express Ideas**

-Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **LCI's Report on Age of Consent:** The 283rd report by the Law Commission of India (LCI) advises against changing the current age of consent under the POCSO Act. This decision is seen as a missed opportunity to address issues arising from the increase in the age of consent from 16 to 18 years in 2012.
2. **Impact on Adolescents:** The current law has led to a surge in prosecutions against teenagers involved in consensual sexual activities, especially affecting marginalised communities.
3. **International Approaches:** Countries like the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, and South Africa have lower ages of consent and provide protections against stigmatisation for consensual activities among adolescents.
4. **LCI's Recommendations:** The LCI suggests keeping the age of consent at 18 but allows judicial discretion in sentencing. This approach has been criticised for its limitations and potential implications.

#### **Prelims Facts**

1. The Law Commission of India released its 283rd report.
2. The POCSO Act, 2012, raised the age of consent from 16 to 18 years.





3. The Indian Penal Code mandates a minimum 10-year sentence for statutory rape.
4. The Veekesh Kalawat vs State of Madhya Pradesh case in 2023 highlighted the implications of the mandatory sentence.

### **Mains- Easy Language**

The Law Commission of India (LCI) made a report about the age when young people can legally agree to have sex. Right now, the age is 18 years old. Some people wanted to change it because there are many cases where young people, especially from poor backgrounds, get into trouble for having consensual relationships. This law is causing problems for many families, especially in rural areas.

The LCI looked at what other countries do. Places like the US, Canada, and Australia have a lower age of consent. They also protect young people from feeling ashamed if they have consensual relationships with someone close to their age. But the LCI didn't talk to many experts, like doctors or psychologists, when making their report.

The LCI decided to keep the age of consent at 18. But they said that judges can give a shorter prison sentence if they think it's right. However, there are problems with this decision. For example, even if two young people are close in age and agree to have a relationship, it's still considered a crime. Also, the LCI introduced a new term called "tacit approval" instead of "consent", which is confusing.

Another problem is that the LCI gave a list of situations where the law might not apply. But some of these situations are not clear and might be about things like religion or caste. This could mean that only relationships that fit into traditional ideas are okay. Young people should be protected from harm. But they should also be allowed to explore and understand their feelings in a safe way. Right now, the law is causing more problems for young people, especially girls from poor backgrounds. The LCI missed a chance to make things better. Now, it's up to the courts and the public to talk about this and find a solution.

**11<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

### **New Delhi, New Tel Aviv- Indian Express Editorial**

-International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Domestic Political Dimension in India:** The Hamas attack on Israel has stirred political reactions in India. The Congress Party has shown inconsistency in its response, while the BJP has clearly condemned the attack and shown support for Israel.
2. **India-Middle East Dynamics:** The political relationship between India and the Middle East has historical roots. The nature of this relationship has evolved over the years, especially in the 21st century, with significant changes during PM Narendra Modi's tenure.
3. **India-Israel Relations:** PM Modi has been transparent about India's relationship with Israel, emphasizing the growing convergence of interests between the two nations. He was the first Indian PM to visit Israel.
4. **Realities in the Middle East:** The NDA government recognizes the changing dynamics in the Middle East, with many Arab countries making peace with Israel. The government supports a two-state solution but is clear in its stance against terror.
5. **India-Arab World Relations:** The relationship between India and the Arab world has transformed in the past decade, with countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt becoming strategic partners.
6. **India's Stance in the Region:** The NDA government has moved away from an anti-Western stance, partnering with countries like the US and Israel. India's clear response to the Hamas attack aligns with its interest-driven foreign policy.
7. **Religion and Diplomacy:** A significant change in India's Middle East policy is the separation of regional diplomacy from religion. While religious identity dominates political discourse in Pakistan, India focuses on pragmatic interests.

### **Mains- Easy Language**



| Clear your doubts now.



The recent attack by Hamas on Israel has caused a stir in India's political scene. While the Congress Party seems unsure about its stance, the BJP has clearly condemned the attack and shown support for Israel. This situation has brought to light the historical and evolving relationship between India and the Middle East. PM Modi has been open about India's ties with Israel and has even visited the country. The NDA government recognizes the changing dynamics in the Middle East and maintains strong ties with Arab countries. They have also shifted from an anti-Western stance to partnering with Western countries. A major change in India's approach to the Middle East is focusing on practical interests rather than religious affiliations. This is different from Pakistan, where religion plays a significant role in their political discourse. As the Middle East faces challenges, it's essential for India to contribute positively to the region's stability.

### Markets and Minefields-Indian Express Editorials

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Global Market Impact:** The ongoing conflict in West Asia is affecting global markets. Indian markets showed a decline, and foreign investors withdrew significant amounts.
2. **Crude Oil Prices:** The conflict has implications for crude oil prices, which have seen fluctuations. An escalation in the conflict could further drive up these prices.
3. **India's Concern:** Being a major oil importer, India could face challenges with its current account deficit, inflation, and fiscal matters due to rising oil prices.
4. **RBI's Estimates:** The RBI had estimated crude prices at \$85 per barrel for 2023-24. Any increase could affect inflation predictions.
5. **Retail Prices:** Despite the rise in crude oil prices, retail prices of petrol and diesel have remained stable since May 2022. The government and oil companies might absorb the increased costs.
6. **Current Account Deficit:** Analysts predict a rise in the current account deficit in the second quarter. The extent of this rise will depend on the duration and magnitude of elevated oil prices.
7. **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor:** The conflict might also impact the recently announced economic corridor between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
8. **Policymaker's Role:** In these uncertain times, Indian policymakers should prioritize maintaining macroeconomic stability.

#### **Prelims Facts**

1. The conflict in West Asia is affecting global markets.
2. Indian markets declined by 0.7% on Monday.
3. Foreign portfolio investors pulled out close to Rs 1,000 crore.
4. Crude oil prices rose around 4% due to instability fears.
5. India imports over 80% of its oil requirements.

#### **Mains- Easy Language**

The conflict in West Asia is causing ripples in global markets. On one particular Monday, Indian markets went down, and many foreign investors took their money out. This conflict is making crude oil prices go up and down. This is a big deal for India because we buy a lot of our oil from other countries. If oil prices keep going up, it could make things more expensive in India and affect our economy. The RBI, which is like India's bank, had guessed that oil prices would be at a certain level in the future. But now, with the conflict, it might be higher. Even though the cost of oil is going up, the prices we see at petrol pumps have stayed the same. This might be because the government and some companies are taking on the extra cost. Some experts think that if oil prices keep going up, it could affect our trade with other countries. There's also a new plan to work more closely with the Middle East and





Europe, and this conflict might change things. During these uncertain times, the people who make decisions for India should focus on keeping our economy stable.

### Stay the heavy hand- Indian Express Ideas

-International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Legal Accountability:** Media outlets, think tanks, and NGOs must be held accountable if suspected of illegal activities. If found guilty, they should face legal consequences.
2. **Democratic Principles:** Law enforcement agencies must uphold democratic values while investigating these entities.
3. **Draconian Laws:** Extreme care must be taken when invoking strict laws to ensure that the evidence is robust and can withstand judicial scrutiny.
4. **Collateral Damage:** Efforts should be made to minimise harm to unrelated individuals or entities. An atmosphere of fear is against the principles of the Republic.
5. **Judicial Efficiency:** Cases where bail is hard to obtain should be expedited. The distinction between stringent bail-denying laws and cases of prolonged detention due to apathy or poverty should be recognized.
6. **Recent Case:** A media organisation is under scrutiny for allegedly receiving funds from Chinese propaganda arms. The organisation denies the charges and invites examination of its content.
7. **International Influence:** All nations engage in influencing others, both overtly and covertly. This includes diplomacy, soft power, and covert operations.
8. **Legal Delays:** The lengthy legal process in India often results in the process itself becoming a form of punishment.
9. **India's Open Society:** India's democratic and open society is admired globally. While combating threats, it's crucial to maintain these values.

#### Mains- Easy Language

If a media company or group is doing something illegal, they should be checked. If they did something wrong, they should be taken to court. But, the police and other agencies should be careful and fair when they check these groups. They should remember that in a democracy, everyone has rights. If the law is very strict, the police should be extra careful. It's not right for people to be in jail for a long time and then be let go because they didn't do anything wrong. Also, if a group is being checked, only the people who did something wrong should be in trouble. Everyone else should be left alone. The courts should also work fast, especially in cases where people can't get bail easily. Right now, there's a media group that's being checked because they might have taken money from China. This group says they didn't do anything wrong. All countries try to influence other countries in different ways. Some of these ways are open, and some are secret. Media groups should be careful about where they get their money from. In India, court cases take a long time, and this can be a problem. India is known for being open and free, and we should keep it that way. We should fight against bad things but also keep our values. Everyone, including politicians and officers, should work to keep India's values.

### What Hottest September says about Climate Change- Indian Express Explained

-Environment

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Record-Breaking Temperatures:** September was the hottest month ever recorded, and 2023 is on track to be the warmest year, surpassing 2016.
2. **El Niño Effect:** The high temperatures were anticipated due to the development of El Niño in the Pacific Ocean.
3. **Consistent Highs:** Several months this year, including July, June, and others, have set temperature records.



| Clear your doubts now.





4. **September's Distinction:** The average global temperature in September was significantly higher than both pre-industrial times and the 1991-2020 period.
5. **Scientific Concern:** The World Meteorology Organisation highlights the unprecedented heat and its potential continuation due to the developing El Niño.
6. **Lack of Immediate Solutions:** Despite the alarming temperature records, there's limited immediate action that can be taken to reduce temperatures.
7. **Climate Change Discussions:** The only significant outcome from recent climate discussions was a commitment to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.

#### Prelims Facts

1. September was the hottest month ever recorded.
2. 2023 is likely to be the warmest year, surpassing 2016.
3. [El Niño in the Pacific Ocean](#) contributed to the temperature rise.
4. The average global temperature in September was 1.75°C above the pre-industrial average.

#### Mains- Easy Language

This year, we've seen a lot of hot months, and September was the hottest one ever. It's so hot that 2023 might become the hottest year we've ever had, even hotter than 2016. Scientists knew this year would be warm because of something called El Niño in the ocean. Many months this year, like July and June, were super hot. In fact, July was the hottest month ever since we started keeping track. Now, September has set another record. It was much hotter than the old days and even hotter than the last 30 years. The people who study the weather are worried because it's getting hotter and hotter. They think 2023 might be the first year when the world's average temperature goes up by 1.5 degrees. This is a big deal because it's a sign of climate change. But even though it's getting hotter, countries aren't doing much to stop it. We can't cool down the world right away, but we need to start making changes. Some countries promised to use more clean energy, but that's not enough. We need to do more to stop the world from getting too hot.

#### [In assault, Hamas may have targeted Israel-Saudi deal- Indian Express \[War in Gaza\]](#)

-International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Israel-Hamas Tensions:** The recent hostilities between Israel and Hamas might be an attempt to disrupt the ongoing negotiations between Israel and Saudi Arabia.
2. **Potential Israel-Saudi Deal:** Israel and Saudi Arabia are nearing an agreement that could reshape the Middle East's political dynamics. This deal might indicate that the Arab world's support for an independent Palestinian state is waning.
3. **Deal Details:** Saudi Arabia might recognize Israel, seeking security guarantees from the US against Iran. The agreement could also involve US support for Saudi's civilian nuclear program and weapon sales.
4. **Benefits for Israel:** Establishing ties with Saudi Arabia could bring economic advantages and regional legitimacy to Israel. For Israel's Prime Minister, this deal could also serve as a distraction from domestic controversies.
5. **US's Perspective:** The US aims to counter China's growing influence in the region and hopes to strengthen its ties with Saudi Arabia, especially after recent confrontations.
6. **Palestinian Position:** While Saudi Arabia has previously supported the Arab Peace Initiative, which favored a statehood deal for Palestinians, the current negotiations might not prioritize an independent Palestinian state.
7. **Impact on the Deal:** The recent conflict has delayed the deal and garnered sympathy for Palestinians in the Arab world. Saudi Arabia's criticism of Israel has surprised and angered US officials, potentially jeopardizing the agreement's completion.





### Mains- Easy Language

Israel and Hamas are fighting again. But this time, some think Hamas attacked to mess up a big deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia. This deal is a big deal! If it happens, Saudi Arabia will be friends with Israel for the first time since 1948. Saudi Arabia wants this because they want protection from their enemy, Iran. The US is helping with this deal because they want to be closer friends with Saudi Arabia and don't want Saudi Arabia to be friends with China. Israel is happy because being friends with Saudi Arabia will make them look good and help their economy. But what about the Palestinians? They might not get much from this deal. Even though Saudi Arabia said they support Palestinians, they might still make the deal without giving Palestinians their own country. The recent fights have made the deal harder to finish. Many people in the Arab world feel bad for the Palestinians. Saudi Arabia even blamed Israel for the fighting. This made the US upset because they wanted the deal to happen. Some think that Hamas and maybe even Iran wanted to stop the deal by starting the fights.

#### Why Gandhi was against a Jewish state in Palestine-Indian Express [war in Gaza]

-International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Gandhi's Views on Palestine:** Mahatma Gandhi believed that Palestine belonged to the Arabs, similar to how England belongs to the English and France to the French.
2. **Gandhi's Article 'The Jews':** Published in Harijan in 1938, this article has sparked debates. Some see it as naive, while others view it as a testament to Gandhi's unwavering commitment to non-violence.
3. **Gandhi's Sympathy for Jews:** Gandhi was deeply sympathetic to the Jews, comparing their treatment by Christians to the treatment of untouchables by Hindus. He criticized Germany's persecution of Jews and Britain's appeasement of Hitler.
4. **Gandhi's Views on Zionism:** Despite his sympathy for Jews, Gandhi did not support the establishment of a Zionist state in Palestine. He believed it was wrong to impose Jews on the Arabs and felt that Palestine was the home of Arab Palestinians.
5. **Gandhi's Two Principal Beliefs:** Gandhi believed that Jews could only settle in Palestine with the goodwill of Arabs and without British military support. He also felt that the idea of a Jewish homeland contradicted the Jewish fight for rights globally.
6. **Impact on India's Foreign Policy:** Gandhi's views influenced Jawaharlal Nehru and shaped India's foreign policy. India voted against the UN Resolution 181, which partitioned Palestine. India recognized Israel in 1950 but established diplomatic relations only in 1992.

### Mains- Easy Language

Mahatma Gandhi once wrote that Palestine is for Arabs, just like England is for English people. He wrote this in a magazine he started called Harijan. Gandhi felt bad for the Jews because they were treated poorly by Christians. He compared this to how some Hindus treat untouchables in India. But, even though he felt bad for Jews, Gandhi didn't think they should make a country in Palestine. He said this would be unfair to the Arabs who already lived there. Gandhi believed that Jews could live in Palestine, but only if the Arabs were okay with it. He also thought that if Jews made a country in Palestine, it would be bad for Jews living in other parts of the world. Gandhi's ideas influenced India's leaders. India didn't fully support Israel until 1992.

#### In Maldives, the evolution of democracy- The Hindu Editorial

-International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Maldives' Democratic Signal:** The Maldives, the smallest nation in South Asia, held a presidential election that showcased the strength of its democracy.
2. **Election Misrepresentation:** Western news agencies portrayed the election as a contest between China and India, which is an oversimplification and not reflective of the Maldivian reality.



| Clear your doubts now.



3. **Presidential History:** The Maldives transitioned from a long rule under Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to a multiparty democracy. Several presidents, including Mohamed Nasheed, Mohamed Waheed Hassan, Abdulla Yameen, and Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, have since taken office. The newly elected president is Mohamed Muizzu.
4. **Reasons for Solih's Defeat:** Three main reasons are identified: historical trend against incumbents, internal party rifts, and an opposition disinformation campaign.
5. **Post-Election Developments:** President-elect Muizzu requested the transfer of former President Yameen from prison to house arrest.
6. **Foreign Relations:** The new administration will decide on its stance towards India and China, considering global changes and regional dynamics.
7. **India's Role:** India has a positive image in the Maldives due to development projects, training programs, and emergency assistance. However, there's potential for deeper cooperation and engagement.

### Mains- Easy Language

The Maldives had a presidential election, and it showed that their democracy is strong. Some news outlets said the election was about China and India, but that's not true. The Maldives has had many presidents in the past. The new president is Mohamed Muizzu. The last president, Mr. Solih, lost because of some challenges in his party and other reasons. After the election, the new president asked for a former president to be moved from jail to his house. The Maldives will decide how they want to work with countries like India and China. India has done a lot of good things in the Maldives, like building parks and training young people. India can do more to help the Maldives and work together in the future.

### Women want change, society needs change- The Hindu Editorial

-Sociology

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Global Gender Gap Report Findings:** The 17th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum, based on data from 146 countries, indicates that it will take 131 years to close the global gender gap. The gap is even wider in populous South Asian countries, including India, at 149 years.
2. **Advocacy for Reservation:** The article emphasizes that reservation is an effective form of affirmative action, and equity is the first step towards equality. The argument against reservation, suggesting it reduces competence, is debunked by highlighting that women often outperform men academically and in the workforce.
3. **Historical Leadership Roles of Women:** The article points out that historically, women who have assumed leadership roles often did so due to male convenience or political agendas. Most of these women leaders had privileges such as higher education or influential backgrounds.
4. **Women's Reservation Bill 2023:** The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, also known as the Constitution (One Hundred Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed in September 2023. This groundbreaking legislation aims to increase the representation of women in the political arena.
5. **Challenges in Achieving Gender Equality:** Despite the progress made, there are still significant challenges in achieving gender equality. Regressive views on gender, held by both men and women, act as a major hurdle. The article calls for immediate action to address historical wrongs and achieve gender parity.

#### Prelims Facts:

1. The 17th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report was published on June 20, 2023.
2. The report is based on data from 146 countries.
3. The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023 is also known as the Constitution (One Hundred Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023.

### Mains- Easy Language



| Clear your doubts now.



The World Economic Forum released a report that says it will take a very long time (131 years) to have equal rights and opportunities for men and women globally. In countries like India, it might take even longer (149 years). The article talks about how giving special seats or "reservation" for women in jobs or politics can help speed up this process. Some people think that if we give these special seats to women, it might reduce the quality of work. But the article says that this is not true because women are just as capable as men. In fact, many women do better in school and jobs than men.

In September 2023, the Indian government passed a new law called the Women's Reservation Bill. This law is a big step because it tries to make sure that more women can become leaders in politics. But even with this new law, there are still many challenges. For example, in the past, only women from rich or powerful families became leaders. And sometimes, even these women leaders did not support other women who were poor or did not have education. The article gives examples of some famous women leaders from history to explain this point.

The article ends by saying that it's important for everyone, both men and women, to support equal rights for women. We should not wait any longer to make this change.

### **We need evidence based traditional medicine- The Hindu Opinion**

-Science tech health

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Legal Tussle:** A manufacturer of indigenous drugs has filed a case against a medical practitioner, alleging that the latter's social media posts negatively impacted their business.
2. **Traditional vs. Modern Medicine:** The article delves into the relevance of traditional medicine in today's world and contrasts it with evidence-based modern medicine.
3. **Misconceptions about Modern Medicine:** Modern medicine is often mistakenly termed as "allopathy." It became science-based in the late 19th century, evolving with technological advancements.
4. **Global Influence:** Modern medicine is not just a Western concept but has been influenced by ideas from across the world.
5. **Ayurveda's Foundations:** While Ayurveda's physiological basis may have limitations, it doesn't mean its therapies are ineffective. Ayurveda emphasizes a reason-based worldview.
6. **Modern Drug Development vs. Ayurveda:** Modern medicines are often single-ingredient, while Ayurvedic medicines are combinations. The interaction of these combinations is still a topic of study.
7. **Government's Role:** The Ministry of AYUSH should facilitate the evaluation of Ayurvedic medicines using modern scientific methods.
8. **Objective of Policy:** Government policies should prioritize the health of the people over nationalism, aiming for an evidence-based appraisal of all traditional medical systems.
9. **Misguided Criticism:** Some individuals denounce traditional medical systems entirely, which is a disservice to both science and cultural achievements.

#### **Prelims Facts**

1. Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha are traditional medical systems with their own pharmacopoeia in India.
2. Artemisinin, a Nobel-winning antimalarial drug, was synthesised from a 1,600-year-old text of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

#### **Mains - Easy Language**

A drug manufacturer has taken a doctor to court, saying the doctor's social media posts hurt their business. This has made many in the medical field talk about it. The article then talks about traditional medicines like Ayurveda and how they fit in today's world. It also explains what modern medicine is and how it's different from what some people call "allopathy." Modern medicine started using science more in the 19th century, and it's not just a "Western" thing. Even though Ayurveda's ideas about the body might not





be completely right, it doesn't mean its treatments don't work. Modern medicines usually have one main ingredient, but Ayurvedic medicines have many. We're not sure how these ingredients work together. The government should help study Ayurvedic medicines in a modern way. The main goal of the government should be to make sure people are healthy. Some people say bad things about all traditional medicines, but that's not right. We should be open to learning from old medical systems. For example, a very important medicine for malaria was made because scientists learned from an old Chinese medical book.

**12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

### **Moody's Message-Indian Express Editorial**

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Semicon India Programme:** Launched in December 2021 with a Rs 76,000 crore budget to boost semiconductor manufacturing in India. The scheme was later enhanced to offer more incentives.
2. **Expert Concerns:** Achieving a semiconductor hub status requires more than financial support; talent development is crucial.
3. **Moody's Climate Warning:** Moody's report indicates that climate change could harm the semiconductor industry, affecting facilities, supply chains, and finances. This could deter investments, impacting India's chip-making ambitions.
4. **Silicon Chips' Importance:** Essential for computation, present in devices like smartphones and crucial for clean energy devices.
5. **Industry's Environmental Impact:** Semiconductor manufacturing consumes vast water amounts and produces waste, making it a top GHG emitter. Some global players are taking steps to reduce their environmental footprint.
6. **Opportunities for India:** India's budding semiconductor sector can learn from global experiences and adopt best practices from the outset.
7. **Climate Challenges by 2050:** Predicted rise in costs due to flooding, water stress, and sea-level rise. India's focus on greenfield centres offers some advantages.
8. **Moody's Suggestion:** The government should invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and promote sustainable practices in the industry.

#### **Prelims-Facts:**

1. Semicon India Programme was launched in December 2021 with a budget of Rs 76,000 crore.

#### **Mains-Easy Language**

In simple terms, the Indian government started a big project in December 2021 to boost the making of semiconductors in India. Semiconductors are like the brain in our electronic devices. But, making these semiconductors can harm the environment because it uses a lot of water and produces waste. A report from a big company called Moody's says that climate change can also cause problems for this industry. For example, if there are floods or too much heat, it can damage the places where these semiconductors are made. But, there's some good news. Since India is just starting in this field, we can learn from other countries and do things in a better and cleaner way. The report also says that the government needs to help the industry by making sure everything is safe from climate problems and encouraging them to be environment-friendly.

### **Best Woman for the job- Indian Express Editorial**

-Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways:**



| Clear your doubts now.



1. **Nobel Prize in Economics:** Claudia Goldin, a Harvard University professor, won the Nobel prize in economics for her comprehensive study on women's earnings and labour market participation over centuries.
2. **Goldin's Insights:** Goldin debunked the misconception that a growing economy automatically increases women's participation in the labour market. Through two centuries of US data, she identified a "U-shaped" relationship between women's involvement in paid work and the US economy's growth.
3. **Women's Economic Engagement:** Despite the tripling of women in paid work in several high-income countries over the past century, women's participation remains lower than men's. Economic growth alone doesn't bridge gender differences in the labour market.

#### Prelims-Facts:

1. Claudia Goldin won the 2021 Nobel prize in economics.
2. Goldin is the third woman to win the economics Nobel since its inception in 1969.

#### Mains-Easy Language:

Claudia Goldin, a professor from Harvard, recently won a big award called the Nobel prize in economics. She got this award because she studied how women work and earn money over many, many years. Before she did her research, people thought that if a country's economy grows, more women will work. But Claudia showed that this wasn't always true. By looking at data from the US for 200 years, she found that women's work first decreased when the US moved from farming to factories. But later, as more women got educated and society changed its views on women working, their participation increased. Even with these changes, women still work less than men in many rich countries and earn less money. This shows that just because a country is making more money doesn't mean women will automatically get equal opportunities. Countries, including India, should understand this because it's not fair to women and it's not good for the country if talented women don't get the right jobs.

### Going Nuclear-Indian Express Ideas

-Environment

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Rapid Economic Growth:** India's economy is on track to surpass Germany and Japan, moving from the fifth to the third position by the end of the decade.
2. **Energy Demand:** With economic growth comes an increased demand for energy. India's primary energy consumption is already the third-highest globally, primarily based on fossil fuels.
3. **Global Warming Crisis:** Fossil fuel consumption contributes significantly to global warming. Achieving net-zero emissions is now a global priority, with a target set between 2045 and 2070.
4. **India's Dual Challenge:** India faces the challenge of increasing its per-capita energy use for development while transitioning to net-zero GHG emissions.
5. **Human Development Index (HDI) Goal:** India aims to achieve an HDI comparable to advanced countries. This requires a significant increase in energy consumption.
6. **Limitations of Renewable Energy:** Even if all barren land in India was used for solar energy, it wouldn't meet the target. Wind energy potential is even less.
7. **Nuclear Energy Solution:** Nuclear energy is the viable solution for India to reach its energy goals. It's clean, safe, and with India's closed nuclear fuel cycle, waste is minimal.
8. **Six-Pronged Strategy:** A comprehensive strategy for nuclear energy scale-up is proposed, including leveraging indigenous technologies, partnering with industries, and international cooperation.

#### Prelims Fact

1. India's primary energy consumption is the third-highest globally.



| Clear your doubts now.



## Mains-Easy Language

India's economy is booming, and with this growth, there's a rising demand for energy. Most of our energy comes from fossil fuels, which unfortunately contribute to global warming. The world now agrees that we need to reduce our emissions to almost zero in the next few decades. For India, this is a big task. We need to use more energy for our development, but at the same time, we need to reduce our emissions.

To develop like other advanced countries, we need to use a lot more energy. Even if we become super-efficient, we'll still need four times the energy we use today. While solar and wind energy are good, they won't be enough. This is where nuclear energy comes in. It's a clean and safe way to produce a lot of energy. Some studies suggest that we need to use a lot more nuclear energy if we want to develop and reduce our emissions at the same time.

To do this, we have a plan:

1. Use our own nuclear technology, which is already working well.
2. Build more small nuclear reactors where old coal plants used to be.
3. Offer nuclear energy to big industries that need a lot of power.
4. Create a special reactor to produce hydrogen, which can be a clean fuel.
5. Use our vast thorium resources for long-term energy.
6. Work with other countries to help them use nuclear energy too.

To achieve our energy goals by 2070, we need to grow our energy production by about 4.8% every year. Nuclear energy will play a big role in this. With the right policies and support, India can make this happen.

## The Cost of Cheap drugs- Indian Express Ideas

-Science Tech health

### Key Takeaways

1. **Brands and Intellectual Property:** The term "brand" is often used in marketing, but in legal terms, brands can be protected through various intellectual property rights like patents, copyrights, and trademarks.
2. **Brands as Status Symbols:** Brands often carry a snob value, signifying conspicuous consumption. They differentiate products, allowing producers to charge more for perceived value.
3. **Pharmaceuticals and Brands:** The pharmaceutical industry is viewed with skepticism due to concerns about manipulated trials, hidden side effects, and monopolistic practices. Medicines can be categorized into three types based on their patent status and branding.
4. **Quality Concerns:** There are concerns about the quality of drugs, especially in the context of spurious and substandard medicines. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization has found instances of tax evasion, substandard drugs, and other issues in wholesale markets.
5. **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP):** Despite the emphasis on GMP since 1988, many manufacturing units are not compliant. The enforcement of quality standards is inconsistent.
6. **Push for Unbranded Generics:** There's a push for unbranded generic medicines, which are cheaper. However, concerns arise about the quality and health costs associated with substandard drugs.

### Prelims Fact

1. Brands can be protected through various intellectual property rights like patents, copyrights, trademarks, and designs.
2. Medicines can be categorised as: (1) On patent and branded, (2) Off-patent, generic but branded, and (3) Off-patent, generic, and unbranded.

## Mains-Easy Language

Brands are everywhere. When we shop, we often choose products based on their brand names because we believe they offer better quality. In legal terms, these brands are protected by things like patents or copyrights. Brands are not just about the product;





they're also about status. For example, many people might prefer a branded phone over an unbranded one because they trust the brand's quality.

However, when it comes to medicines, things get complicated. Some people believe big pharmaceutical companies can be dishonest, hiding side effects or overcharging for medicines. Medicines can be branded (protected by a patent), generic but still have a brand name, or completely unbranded.

There are concerns about the quality of these medicines. Some are fake or don't meet the required standards. Even though there are guidelines called Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) that companies should follow, many don't. This is worrying because bad quality medicines can harm patients.

Despite these concerns, there's a push to promote unbranded generic medicines because they're cheaper. But just because they're cheap doesn't mean they're good. If a medicine is of poor quality, it might end up costing more in terms of health problems. So, while brands in other industries might be about status, in the pharmaceutical world, they can be about safety and trust.

### [How new royalty rates for strategic minerals can help cut their imports- Indian Express Explained](#)

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Amendment to Mining Law:** The Centre has approved changes to a key law to set competitive royalty rates for mining lithium, niobium, and rare earth elements (REEs). This follows the removal of these minerals from the 'specified' atomic minerals list, potentially allowing private sector participation.
2. **Strategic Minerals:** These minerals are crucial for electric vehicle batteries, energy storage devices, and high-end motors. India has discovered significant lithium resources in Jammu & Kashmir.
3. **Significance of the Move:** The amendment aligns India's royalty rates with global standards, facilitating commercial exploitation of these minerals through auctions. The current royalty rate of 12% for unspecified minerals is higher than global benchmarks. The new rates are 3% for lithium and niobium and 1% for REEs.
4. **Domestic Mining and Energy Transition:** The aim is to reduce imports, foster end-use industries like electric vehicles, and support India's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
5. **Lithium Exploration:** India imports all its lithium needs. Exploration efforts are underway in J&K, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. India's focus on lithium is also seen in the context of reducing dependency on China, a major lithium-ion product supplier.
6. **Rare Earth Elements:** REEs are vital for electric vehicle motors. However, their mining can have environmental consequences. Most of the global REE production is linked to China.
7. **Niobium Uses:** Niobium is corrosion-resistant and is used in alloys for jet engines, building structures, oil and gas pipelines, particle accelerators, and MRI scanners.

#### **Prelims Fact**

1. The Centre has set new royalty rates for mining: 3% for lithium and niobium and 1% for rare earth elements (REEs).
2. India has discovered lithium resources of 5.9 million tonnes in Jammu & Kashmir.
3. Rare earth elements like neodymium, terbium, and dysprosium are used in electric vehicle motors.

#### **Mains-Easy Language**

The Indian government has made changes to its mining laws to encourage the mining of important minerals like lithium, niobium, and rare earth elements. These minerals are super important because they're used in things like batteries for electric cars and other high-tech devices.

Before this change, the government had a list of special minerals that only they could mine. But now, they've removed some minerals from that list, which means private companies might also get a chance to mine them. This is a big deal because India







recently found a lot of lithium in Jammu & Kashmir. Lithium is a key ingredient in batteries that power things like electric cars and laptops.

The government has also decided to charge less money (called royalty) from companies that mine these minerals. This will make it more attractive for companies to mine them in India.

But why is this all important? Well, India wants to make more electric cars and reduce pollution. For that, we need minerals like lithium. Right now, we buy a lot of these minerals and products from other countries, especially China. By mining these minerals in India, we can reduce our dependence on other countries and also help our industries grow.

There's also a focus on rare earth elements. These are used in electric car motors. But, there's a challenge. Mining these elements can harm the environment. Plus, a lot of these elements come from China, and getting a steady supply can be tricky.

Another mineral, niobium, is also in focus. It's a strong metal used in engines, buildings, and even MRI scanners.

In short, the government is making moves to boost mining of some key minerals in India. This can help our industries and reduce our dependence on imports.

### [UN Security Council reform is a song in the loop by Shashi Tharoor- The Hindu Editorial](#)

-International Relations

#### Key takeaways

1. **The Need for Reform of the UN Security Council:** The UN Security Council was established in 1945 to maintain international peace and security. It is composed of 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
2. **The Problem with the Current Security Council:** The current composition of the Security Council reflects the balance of power in 1945, not today. Many countries, including India, Japan, and Germany, are not adequately represented on the Council.
3. **The Gridlock over Security Council Reform:** There is a consensus on the need for Security Council reform, but no agreement on the prescription. The bar to amending the UN Charter is set very high, requiring a two thirds majority of the overall membership and ratification by two thirds of the member states.
4. **The Consequences of Inaction:** The gridlock over Security Council reform is preventing the UN from effectively addressing the most pressing global challenges. The Ukraine conflict is a prime example: Russia's veto has blocked resolutions on Ukraine, Mali, Syria, and North Korea.
5. **A Call to Action:** We cannot afford to let the UN fade into irrelevance. We need to find a way to reform the Security Council and other UN institutions to make them more effective and representative of the world today.
6. **Possible Solutions:** There are a number of possible solutions to the gridlock over Security Council reform. One option is to create a new category of "semi permanent members" with longer terms. Another option is to expand the number of permanent members to include more developing countries. Still another option is to reform the veto power so that it can only be used in certain limited circumstances.
7. **Conclusion:** The reform of the UN Security Council is a complex and challenging issue. However, it is essential if the UN is to remain an effective force for good in the world. We need to find a way to overcome the gridlock and reach a consensus on a reform plan that will make the Security Council more representative and effective.

#### Prelims Fact

1. The UN Security Council has been reformed only once, in 1965, when the number of non-permanent members was increased from 11 to 15.
2. The UN Charter requires a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly and ratification by two-thirds of the member states to amend the Charter.





## Mains- Easy Language

The UN Security Council is the most powerful body in the world. It is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

The Security Council has the power to authorise the use of force, impose sanctions, and establish peacekeeping missions.

The Security Council is made up of 15 members, including five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These five members have veto power, which means that they can block any Security Council resolution.

The other 10 members of the Security Council are non-permanent members. They are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

The current composition of the Security Council reflects the balance of power in 1945, not today. Many countries, including India, Japan, and Germany, are not adequately represented on the Council.

There is a widespread consensus that the Security Council needs to be reformed to reflect the geopolitical realities of the 21st century. However, there is no agreement on how to reform the Security Council.

Some countries, such as India, want to become permanent members of the Security Council. Other countries want to create a new category of "semi permanent members" with longer terms. Still other countries want to reform the veto power so that it can only be used in certain limited circumstances.

The debate over Security Council reform has been going on for decades, with no end in sight. The gridlock over Security Council reform is preventing the UN from effectively addressing the most pressing global challenges, such as the Ukraine conflict and climate change.

In layman's terms, the UN Security Council is like a global police force. It is responsible for keeping the world safe and resolving conflicts. However, the Security Council is currently outdated and does not reflect the realities of the world today. There is a need to reform the Security Council to make it more representative and effective. However, there is no agreement on how to do this, and the gridlock is preventing the UN from doing its job.

**13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

### **Giant Ozone Hole Found over Antarctica: Reason to worry?- Indian Express Explained**

-Environment

#### **Key Takeaways and Facts**

1. **Detection and Size** A vast 'hole' in the ozone layer above Antarctica spans 26 million sq km. The European Space Agency's satellite recorded this on September 16.
2. **Ozone Layer's Role** Located 15-50 km above Earth in the stratosphere, the ozone layer absorbs harmful ultraviolet rays, protecting life.
3. **Ozone 'Hole' Explained** The 'hole' is an area with reduced ozone concentration, most pronounced over the South Pole in the 1980s.
4. **Depletion Causes** Industrial chemicals, especially chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), were the main culprits.
5. **Recovery Efforts** Post the 1989 Montreal Protocol, the 'hole' has been shrinking. By the 2040s, most of the ozone layer should recover, with the Antarctic 'hole' healing by 2066.
6. **Size Influencers** The 'hole' size varies due to weather conditions and possibly a 2022 volcanic eruption near Tonga.
7. **Current Perspective** While this year's 'hole' isn't alarming, climate change and wildfires could pose future threats.

#### **Mains - Easy Language**

Antarctica has a big 'hole' in its ozone layer, which is like Earth's protective sunscreen against harmful sun rays. This 'hole' is huge, about three times bigger than Brazil! A satellite from Europe spotted this on September 16. Now, when we talk about the ozone



| Clear your doubts now.



layer, imagine it as a special zone high up in the sky where there's a lot of a gas called ozone. Even though there's not much of it, this gas is super important because it stops harmful sun rays from reaching us.

But what's this 'hole'? Well, it's not really an empty space but a place where there's less ozone than usual. People first saw this kind of 'hole' in the 1980s, and it was a big worry. They found out that some chemicals we used in things like air conditioners and fridges were hurting the ozone. So, the world decided to use less of these bad chemicals, and since then, the 'hole' has been getting smaller. Good news is, if we keep this up, the ozone layer might get back to how it was in the 1980s by around 2040, and the big 'hole' over Antarctica might be gone by 2066.

But why is the 'hole' so big now? It's because of the special weather around Antarctica. Sometimes, the 'hole' gets bigger or smaller. A scientist named Claus said that it's because of how Earth spins and the winds around Antarctica. This year, a big volcano erupted near a place called Tonga, and it might have made the 'hole' bigger. But don't worry too much! Scientists say this year's 'hole' isn't too scary. However, they're a bit worried because things like climate change and big fires around the world might be hurting the ozone layer again. In fact, big 'holes' in 2020 and 2021 were linked to these fires.

### **An Indian war hero in Italy: The glorious story of Naik Yeshwant Ghadge- Indian Express Explained**

-History

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Tribute in Montone, Italy** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the VC Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial in Montone, Italy, highlighting the role of Indian soldiers in World War II's Italian campaign.
2. **Naik Yeshwant Ghadge: A Braveheart** At just under 23, Naik Yeshwant Ghadge showed immense valour in Montone, Italy. Despite his team being heavily attacked, he single-handedly captured an enemy post, for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.
3. **World War II's Italian Campaign** During the Italian campaign of World War II, the Allies aimed to counter the Axis Powers by invading Italy. The campaign saw fierce resistance, especially from the Germans along defensive lines across Italy.
4. **Indian Soldiers' Valor in Italy** The British-led Indian Army played a significant role in the Italian campaign. With over 2.5 million men contributing to the Allied forces, Indian soldiers showcased bravery and professionalism, earning respect from many Allied commanders.

#### **Mains-Easy Language**

India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, visited a special place in Italy called the VC Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial. This visit was to remember and honour Indian soldiers who helped during a big war called World War II. One of these soldiers was a young and brave man named Naik Yeshwant Ghadge. He showed great courage and fought against the enemy all by himself, capturing an important place. Because of his bravery, he received a special award called the Victoria Cross after he passed away.

During World War II, there was a big fight in Italy. Many countries joined in. The good guys, known as the Allies, wanted to stop the bad guys, called the Axis Powers. The Allies tried to take back Italy from the Axis Powers. Many soldiers from India went to Italy to help during this war. They were very brave and played a big role in many important battles. They helped the Allies win and were praised by many people for their bravery and hard work.

### **Jobs, Still- Indian Express Editorial**

-Economy

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Jobs and Economic Policy** The relationship between economic growth and job creation has been a major concern, especially with the pandemic causing economic disruptions, unemployment, and mass migrations.
2. **Latest Labour Force Survey Findings** The 2022-23 labour force survey shows increasing labour force participation and decreasing unemployment. However, there's a decline in regular wage jobs and an increase in self-employment.



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3. **Rise in Labour Force Participation** The overall labour force participation rate has risen from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 57.9% in 2022-23. This increase is more pronounced in rural areas and is significantly driven by females.
4. **Concerns Over Female Participation** The rise in female participation, especially in rural areas, might be due to economic distress pushing women to work for additional family income. This is evident with more women working in MGNREGA, which offers lower wages.
5. **Shift Towards Self-Employment** There's a noticeable shift from regular wage jobs to self-employment. The percentage of workers in the informal sector has also increased.
6. **Challenges in Job Creation** Despite the decline in unemployment rates, the shift towards self-employment and the rise in informal sector jobs indicate the economy's struggle to provide productive jobs for the growing labour force.

### **Mains - Easy Language:**

Jobs have always been a big topic when people talk about the economy. Recently, this has become even more important because even when the economy grows, it doesn't always mean more jobs are created. The pandemic made things worse by causing many people to lose their jobs and forcing many to go back to their villages.

A recent survey looked at how many people are working and found some interesting things. More people are now looking for work and fewer people are without jobs. This sounds like good news, but there's a catch. Fewer people have regular jobs where they get a salary every month. Instead, more people are working for themselves or in jobs that don't have a fixed salary.

One interesting thing from the survey is that more women in villages are working now. This might be because things are tough in villages and families need more money, so women are stepping in to help. Many of these women are working in government programs that don't pay as much as other jobs.

Another thing the survey found is that more people are working in what's called the "informal sector". This means they don't have jobs with a regular salary or benefits. Even young people are finding it hard to get good jobs.

All of this shows that while more people are working, the kind of jobs they're getting might not be the best. The big problem is that there aren't enough good jobs for everyone. This is something that the people in charge need to think about and find solutions for.

**14th October, 2023**

### **Bound by History, geography- Indian Express Ideas**

-International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways**

##### **1. India-Maldives Relations: A Historical Bond**

India and the Maldives share a deep-rooted, enduring relationship, dating back to Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's era to the present, despite occasional disruptions.

##### **2. Challenges in the Maldives**

The Maldives grapples with several challenges, such as a restrictive constitution, nascent civil society, patronage traditions, drug abuse, labor market distortions, inequality, and growing religious extremism.

##### **3. India's Integral Role**

India has consistently played a crucial role in the Maldives' development, offering support during crises and contributing to its prosperity.

##### **4. Defense and Security Cooperation**

India assists in capacity building, conducts joint exercises, provides surveillance assets, and trains Maldivian National Defense Force (MNDF) trainers, ensuring security in the region.

##### **5. Trade, Tourism, and Infrastructure**

India remains the Maldives' top partner in trade and tourism, actively participating in infrastructure development.



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## 6. Essential Supplies from India

India supplies critical items in bulk, including food and construction materials, supporting the Maldives' needs.

## 7. Strategic Significance for India

The Maldives is vital for India's security against threats like terrorism, piracy, and drug trafficking. Conversely, China's involvement is viewed as self-interested and potentially harmful to Maldivian democracy.

## 8. Preserving Commitments

India emphasizes preserving its partnership with the Maldives, cautioning against impulsive actions that could harm both nations, as seen in past experiences.

## 9. President Designate Mohamed Muizzu: A Pragmatic Approach

President designate Mohamed Muizzu is expected to maintain stability in relations with India, recognizing the practical realities of governance. The Maldives must value its relationship with India to avoid repeating past errors.

### Mains-Easy Language

India and Maldives have a long and close relationship. Maldives is a small island nation located in the Indian Ocean, just 70 nautical miles away from India. The two countries are intertwined, not only through geography but also history.

India has always been a reliable partner for Maldives, providing assistance in various sectors like education, health, infrastructure and security. India is also Maldives's largest trading partner.

In recent years, China has been trying to increase its influence in Maldives. China has been offering loans to Maldives for various projects, but these loans often come with high interest rates and hidden terms. As a result, Maldives has become heavily indebted to China.

China's growing influence in Maldives is a concern for India. India is worried that China may use its influence to destabilize the region or to build military bases in Maldives.

The new President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, is a Western-educated engineer. He is expected to take a more balanced approach in foreign policy. However, he is also under pressure from some groups in Maldives to move closer to China.

It is important for Maldives to maintain close ties with India. India is a reliable partner that has always been there for Maldives in times of need. China, on the other hand, is a self-serving power that is only interested in advancing its own interests.

Here are some specific examples of India's assistance to Maldives:

- During the 1988 coup attempt in Maldives, India sent troops to help the Maldivian government restore order.
- In 2004, after the tsunami that devastated Maldives, India was the first country to send aid and assistance.
- In 2014, when Maldives was facing a water shortage, India sent water tankers to help.
- India has also provided training to the Maldivian military and police.
- India has helped Maldives to build infrastructure like roads, bridges, and airports.
- India is also a major provider of education and healthcare to Maldives.

### [A war that ends the Saudi-Israel 'normalisation' process-The Hindu editorial](#)

International relations

### Key Takeaways

1. **Hamas Attack Stalls Normalization:** Hamas' October strikes on Israel hinder Israeli-U.S. normalization with Arab nations, notably impacting potential Saudi-Israeli ties.
2. **Netanyahu at the UN:** Israeli PM Netanyahu highlighted normalization with Arab states at the UNGA, sidelining the Palestinian issue.





3. **US-Israeli-Saudi Diplomacy:** U.S. and Israel worked on establishing Israel-Saudi relations, including conditions like U.S. endorsement of a Saudi civilian nuclear program.
4. **Challenges in Conditions:** The conditions faced opposition due to concerns over Saudi's nuclear ambitions, human rights, and arms technology transfer. Yet, the U.S. was hopeful.
5. **Palestinian Exclusion:** Palestinian interests were sidelined in normalization talks, underscoring Israel's unwillingness to recognize Palestinian statehood claims.
6. **Gaza War's Impact:** The Gaza conflict has refocused attention on the Palestinian issue. There are claims of Iran's hand in Hamas attacks to impede Saudi-Israel ties, despite warming Saudi-Iran relations.
7. **Saudi's Evolving Position:** Post-Gaza conflict, Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of the Palestinian issue for regional stability and has begun taking tangible steps in support.
8. **Saudi's Foreign Policy Autonomy:** Saudi Arabia is steering a more independent foreign policy, resisting U.S. pushes against China and Iran.
9. **Saudi Advocacy for Palestinians:** Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is anticipated to increasingly champion the Palestinian cause, complementing its wider Asian outreach.

### Mains Easy Language

Hamas launched attacks on Israel on October 7, which has messed up Israel's plans to get on better terms with Arab countries without offering anything to the Palestinians. Because of this, Saudi Arabia might not be as keen to become friends with Israel. In a UN meeting, Israel's leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, showed two maps. One showed Israel alone in 1948, and the other showed it with many Arab friends. The new map also showed places that Palestinians say are theirs as part of Israel. Netanyahu was very happy about becoming closer friends with Saudi Arabia and said the Palestinians shouldn't be able to stop these friendships. The U.S. has been helping Israel and Saudi Arabia get closer. They were hoping to make their friendship official soon. Some people from Israel even visited Saudi Arabia for meetings, which shows they're getting along.

To be friends, Saudi Arabia had a few conditions: they wanted to have a nuclear program, strong security promises from the U.S., and to buy high-tech weapons. The U.S., in return, wanted Saudi Arabia to support their decisions on oil prices, reduce their connections with China, and become closer allies with the U.S.

However, not everyone liked these conditions. Some were worried about Saudi Arabia having nuclear power. Others didn't like that Saudi Arabia might make their own weapons, given their history of not always being nice to people.

The talks didn't consider Palestinian hopes and concerns. Israel's leader didn't even want to promise to stop building in areas Palestinians claim or accept their chosen capital city.

The recent Gaza war made everyone focus on Palestinian issues again. Some think Iran might have been behind the Hamas attacks to stop Saudi Arabia from being friends with Israel. However, Saudi Arabia and Iran are already becoming friendly, with some help from China.

After the attacks, Saudi Arabia said they need to think more about what Palestinians want if they're going to have peace. They've criticized Israel for some actions and said they'll stand by the Palestinians.

Lately, Saudi Arabia has been making decisions on its own without the U.S. They don't want to oppose China or Iran just because the U.S. says so. They're focused on making their own friends in Asia, and helping Palestinians will be a big part of their plans.

### [A call, entrapment, and descent into sex trade-Indian Express Big Picture](#)

-Sociology

### Key Takeaways

1. **The Phone Call that Changed Everything:**
  - A 17-year-old girl from a remote village near the Sundarbans received a life-altering phone call.
  - The unknown caller, with sweet words and promises of love, convinced her to elope with him.



| Clear your doubts now.

**2. New Modus Operandi:**

- Traffickers have shifted from offering high-paying jobs to professing love and promising marriage.
- They target vulnerable girls and women through phone calls and social media.

**3. Widespread Issue:**

- Data from the National Crime Records Bureau revealed that West Bengal ranks second in the country for missing women and girls.
- The Sundarbans region, due to its ecological challenges, has become a hotspot for trafficking.

**4. Manipulative Strategies:**

- The sheltered upbringing of these girls and young women makes them easy prey.
- Traffickers use compliments and attention to make victims believe they are genuinely loved.

**5. Elaborate Deception:**

- Traffickers contact potential victims through random calls.
- They gradually establish connections via WhatsApp and social media, eventually convincing them to run away.

**6. Difficulty for Law Enforcement:**

- The new modus operandi makes it challenging for the police to distinguish between trafficking and genuine relationships.
- Encrypted messages on apps like Messenger further complicate investigations.

**7. Empowerment and Education:**

- Social workers suggest educating girls about being cautious and wary of strangers.
- Empowering young women with knowledge can help them avoid falling into traffickers' traps.

**8. One Survivor's Fight:**

- The article tells the story of a 25-year-old woman who was sex trafficked to Gujarat from a village in West Bengal.
- She has become resilient and no longer falls for empty compliments.
- She remains hopeful about marriage but insists it should be legally registered.

**Mains -Easy Language**

In a small village near the Sundarbans in West Bengal, a 17-year-old girl received a phone call that changed her life. The unknown caller, using sweet words and promises of love, convinced her to run away with him. This marked a disturbing shift in how traffickers operate in the region. Instead of offering high-paying jobs, they now manipulate vulnerable individuals, professing love and marriage over phone calls and social media.

This issue isn't limited to one person; it's widespread. West Bengal ranks second in the country for missing women and girls, with the Sundarbans' challenging ecology contributing to the problem. The traffickers exploit the fact that children, left behind by working parents, have smartphones for communication, making them targets.

The sheltered upbringing of these girls and young women makes them easy prey. Education and awareness are key to protecting them from falling into these traps, as the police find it increasingly difficult to distinguish between genuine relationships and trafficking in this new modus operandi. The survivors, though scarred, display resilience in the face of adversity, emphasizing the need for empowerment and education to protect young girls and women from falling victim to such schemes.

**Cost of Dal-Roti-Indian Express Editorial**

Economics



| Clear your doubts now.



### Key Takeaways:

1. **Decline in Inflation:** Consumer price inflation in India has decreased from 7.4% to 5% year-on-year between July and September, falling below the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6%.
2. **Food Inflation:** Retail food inflation has also declined sharply during this period, dropping from 11.5% to 6.6%. This decline is primarily concentrated in cereals (10.9%) and pulses (16.4%), with vegetables and milk prices moderating.
3. **Relief on Vegetable Prices:** Vegetable prices, particularly tomatoes, have seen a significant decrease in annual inflation, from 202.1% in July to minus 21.5% in September.
4. **Edible Oil Prices:** Edible oil inflation has remained in negative or low single digits for over a year, providing relief to consumers.
5. **Varied Inflation Rates:** Inflation rates vary across food items, with high inflation for salt and spices but better control in sugar.
6. **Nuanced Food Inflation:** Food inflation is no longer generalized; it is limited to "dal-roti" (pulses and cereals), unlike the past when it affected other food items like vegetables and milk.
  - o **Weather Impact:** The impact of El Niño has been less severe than anticipated, with favorable rainfall in September. This has improved the water situation, benefiting crop plantings.
7. **Government Strategy:** The article suggests that the government's current strategy of keeping prices low through export bans, restrictions, and stocking limits may need a more balanced and nuanced approach that considers both consumer and producer interests.
8. **Political Considerations:** While privileging consumers over producers may be politically expedient, it can backfire where farm votes matter, such as in upcoming elections. Soybean trading below the minimum support price is a concern.
9. **Long-Term Investment:** The government should also consider the long-term implications of excessively pro-consumer policies on investments in the food sector, which has high employment potential.

### Synopsis:

Food prices are rising in India, but it's important to note that the increase in prices isn't the same for all food items. Some basic foods like dal (pulses) and roti (cereals) have become more expensive, while others like vegetables and milk are not as costly as they used to be. For example, the price of tomatoes, which used to be very expensive, has dropped significantly. Similarly, cooking oil remains relatively cheap, which is good news for consumers.

The weather has played a crucial role in these fluctuations. Adequate rainfall has helped in the growth of crops, which, in turn, has affected food prices. The government is trying to keep food prices low to ease the burden on consumers, but it's essential to find a balance between consumer interests and the interests of those who produce the food.

Sometimes, policies that aim to make food more affordable for consumers can negatively impact the farmers who grow the food. The government needs to consider the long-term consequences of such policies on the food industry and employment opportunities. In essence, the article suggests that while food prices are changing the government needs to be careful and adopt more balanced approach to food inflation, taking into account the interests of both consumers and producers, as inflation rates vary across different food items.

### [A BLEAK SPOT-Indian Express Editorial](#)

-Sociology



| Clear your doubts now.





## Key Takeaways

### 1. GHI Ranking and Government Response

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) annually prompts defensive responses from the Indian government.
- The latest GHI ranking places India at 111 out of 125 nations.

### 2. Government's Critique of GHI

- The government's criticism of the GHI revolves around the use of certain indicators and a small sample size opinion poll to estimate undernourishment.
- Scholars have also expressed concerns about the design of the GHI.

### 3. Focus on Undernutrition

- It's crucial not to lose sight of the pressing problem of poor food intake and undernutrition in India.

### 4. Mandates and Programs

- The National Food Security Act of 2013 mandated the state to provide basic cereals and grains to ensure people do not go hungry.
- Programs like Poshan 2.0 aim to tackle malnutrition, especially among children, adolescent girls, and pregnant women.

### 5. Hindrances to Accessing Nutrition Benefits

- Challenges like technical issues, bureaucracy, social and economic inequalities, and gender discrimination hinder many people from accessing nutrition-related benefits.

### 6. Troubling NFHS Statistics

- The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) reveals concerning data regarding child malnutrition.
- High rates of anaemia are observed across various demographic groups.

### 7. Beyond Calories

- Scholars advocate moving beyond calorie-centred approaches to address vitamin and micronutrient deficiencies.
- They stress the importance of women's empowerment in nutrition.

### 8. Data Challenges

- The lack of updated data on per capita household spending poses a significant challenge.
- The government has not published new data in over a decade, and the Consumer Expenditure Surveys have been abandoned.

### 9. Enhancing Data Collection

- To tackle undernutrition effectively, the government needs to improve its data collection and information repositories.

## Mains synopsis:



| Clear your doubts now.



The Global Hunger Index (GHI) report comes out every October, and it often makes the Indian government defensive. This year, India's rank dropped to 111 out of 125 nations. The government says the GHI is flawed because it uses indicators about child health and a small opinion poll to measure undernourishment. Some experts also don't like how the GHI is designed.

But, while these criticisms are valid, the real problem is that many people in India still don't get enough food. Laws like the National Food Security Act of 2013 were supposed to provide basic food to prevent hunger, and programs like Poshan 2.0 aim to help malnourished kids and pregnant women. However, many people still struggle to get these benefits because of problems like bureaucracy and discrimination.

The National Family Health Survey shows that many kids in India aren't getting the right food, and anaemia is common in different age groups. Scholars say we should focus on more than just calories and think about things like vitamins. But one big problem is that there hasn't been new data on how much money families spend on food for over ten years. To solve the undernutrition issue, the government needs better data.

**15th October, 2023**

### **On Israel and Palestine, hear Ambedkar and Gandhi- Indian Express Opinion**

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Modern Times' Challenges:** The Arab world has increasingly become militarized with grave damages caused by rival factions. This has put world peace at great risk, leading to casualties in thousands daily, impacting all, including children, women, and men.
2. **Historical Context:** The Palestine-Israel conflict traces its roots to biblical times. The Jewish community has faced displacement but has shown resilience over time. However, the current Israeli government lacks solidarity.
3. **Jerusalem's Significance:** Jerusalem holds religious importance for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, causing tensions over its ownership.
4. **Gandhi's Perspective:** Gandhi opposed the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and blamed the British administration. Yet, he sympathized with the Jews, equating their struggles to the "untouchables" in Hinduism.
5. **Anti-Semitic Sentiments:** Anti-Jewish sentiments run deep, even in places like Maharashtra's Nanded, far from the global spotlight. Local exhibits there showcased graphic violence against Palestinians.
6. **Contrasting Ideologies:** Hindu supremacists and Muslim radicals oppose the Jewish community for differing reasons. While Hindu extremists find inspiration from Hitler, Muslims resent the Israeli occupation.
7. **Ambedkar's Appreciation:** Dr. Ambedkar respected Moses, drawing parallels between the struggles of Jews and Dalits. He envisioned himself as a guiding figure, much like Moses.
8. **Two-State Solution:** While the idea of two states was enforced, it didn't negate the historical connections Jews had with the land. In the struggle between the powerful and the weak, sympathies often lie with the latter.
9. **Palestinian Struggle:** Palestinian territories have been shrinking since 1948 due to colonization. Options seem to be either expulsion, elimination, or making Palestinians second-class citizens, which is unacceptable.
10. **Homeland for Jews:** The narrative doesn't deny Jews their right to a homeland.
11. **Dalit Community's Stance:** The Dalit community is urged to extend support not only to Palestinians but also to others suffering in the Arab world, including in Yemen. The stance is against terrorism that causes majority suffering.

#### **Mains - Easy Language**



| Clear your doubts now.



The Arab world is facing a lot of issues right now. Because of fights between different groups, many innocent people are getting hurt every day. This has been going on for a very long time, especially between Israel and Palestine. Even though Jewish people have had a tough past, the current Israeli government is not helping in making peace. Jerusalem, a very important city for three major religions, is in the middle of this fight.

Long ago, Gandhi, didn't like that Israel took over some lands. But he also felt bad for the Jewish people because they were treated poorly, like some lower-caste people in India. Nowadays, some people in India, like in Nanded, don't like Jewish people because of what's happening in Palestine. They show pictures of hurt children to make people angry. Some Hindu and Muslim groups don't like Jewish people but for different reasons.

Dr. Ambedkar, liked how Moses led Jewish people during tough times. He felt he was doing the same for his people in India. Some people think Israel and Palestine should be two separate countries. But even though Israel has become stronger, many people feel bad for Palestinians because their land is getting taken away and they're being treated badly. Still, this doesn't mean that Jewish people shouldn't have their own country.

Lastly, the Dalit community in India, who have faced discrimination, should support all people who are having a tough time in the Arab world, not just in Palestine but also in places like Yemen. They should not support acts of terror that hurt most of the people.

### [Deep learning helps classification of tumours during surgery- The Hindu Science](#)

-Science and tech

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Rapid Classification of CNS Tumours:** A new method classifies CNS tumours in under 90 minutes, surpassing traditional techniques that often lack clarity.
2. **Combining Sequencing and AI:** Using nanopore sequencing and AI, DNA methylation profiles are obtained quickly.
3. **'Sturgeon' Neural Network's Efficiency:** The 'Sturgeon' neural network correctly identified 45 out of 50 tumour samples in 20-40 minutes.
4. **Real-Time Surgical Benefits:** Sturgeon was tested in 25 surgeries, producing diagnoses in less than 90 minutes, aiding in immediate neurosurgical decisions and enhancing patient prognosis.

### [Israel's Missile Defence Shield- The Hindu Profile](#)

-Science and tech

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Unexpected Multipronged Attack:** On October 7, at 06:30 local time in Israel, Hamas launched a widespread attack from land, sea, and air. Approximately 2,200 rockets targeted southern and central Israel.
2. **Iron Dome's Response:** Many of the rockets were neutralized by the 'Iron Dome' defense system. Some landed in populated regions.
3. **Capabilities of Iron Dome:** Developed by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems of Israel, the Iron Dome has a short-range antirocket, antimortar, and antiartillery capacity. It can intercept threats within a range of 2.5 to 43 miles. The system prioritizes intercepting projectiles that endanger populated or significant areas.
4. **Debated Efficacy:** While past interception rates have reached up to 97%, the recent barrage of rockets might have impacted the system's efficiency.
5. **Layered Air Defence:** Israel boasts a multi-tiered defense mechanism, including the Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow II, and Arrow III.





6. **U.S. Support:** The U.S. has provided almost \$3 billion for the Iron Dome and has been collaborating with Israel since 2011. Parts of the Iron Dome, like the Tamir interceptors, are produced in the U.S. and assembled in Israel.
7. **Iron Dome Globally:** The U.S. Army has acquired two Iron Dome units, and the U.S. Marine Corps is currently assessing the system. Israel's defense mechanisms, including the Iron Dome, have garnered interest internationally, with countries like India and Ukraine considering them for various reasons.
8. **Current Concerns:** There will be ongoing analysis regarding the Iron Dome's effectiveness against evolving enemy tactics and the breach of the fortified wall on October 7.

### Mains-Easy Language

On a recent morning in Israel, there was a big attack. Instead of just one type of attack, this was a combined attack from the land, sea, and sky. This attack was by a group called Hamas. They fired a lot of rockets, about 2,200, at Israel. But Israel has this cool protective system called the 'Iron Dome' that shoots rockets out of the sky. Many rockets were stopped, but some still hit places where people live.

Now, this 'Iron Dome' thing is made by an Israeli company and is designed to stop short-distance attacks like rockets or mortars. It's smart enough to figure out which rockets to stop, especially the ones that might hurt people or important places. In the past, it was able to stop almost all of the rockets, but this time, because there were so many rockets, some people think it might not have worked as well.

Israel has multiple protective systems to stop different kinds of attacks. The U.S. has given a lot of money to Israel to help with this 'Iron Dome'. They even make parts of it in the U.S. and then send them to Israel to be put together. This system is so good that even the U.S. Army has bought some, and other countries are thinking about getting it too.

Lastly, after this big attack, people will be trying to figure out two things. First, how well the 'Iron Dome' is working when bad guys change their attack strategies. And second, they will be looking into how some of the attackers got through a big wall without anyone noticing.

**16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

### **We need more doctors- Indian Express Editorial**

-Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Medical Education Demand-Supply Gap:** India's medical education sees a significant demand-supply discrepancy affecting doctor numbers.
2. **Growth in Medical Institutions:** From 2010-11, there's a notable increase in medical colleges and seats, but India still lags behind countries like China and the US in graduates per population.
3. **Barriers in Expansion:** India's medical colleges are smaller due to regulatory and financial constraints, limiting the number of graduates.
4. **Scaling Challenges:** Private colleges face risks in expansion due to costs and seat vacancies, and faculty shortages are common.
5. **Quality Concerns:** India's competency-based curriculum focuses on quality but limits scalability. The US uses similar curriculums but employs innovative methods to balance scale and quality.
6. **Equity in Focus:** The National Medical Commission prioritizes evenly distributed medical education, which might not be efficient due to doctor migration across states.

### Mains Easy Language



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In India, many people want to study medicine, but there aren't enough seats in medical schools to fit everyone's needs. This also means there aren't as many doctors as the country might need. In the past decade, India has opened more medical colleges and increased the number of seats for students. But even with this growth, compared to other countries like China, the US, and the UK, India still produces fewer doctors for its population.

One reason for this is the size of the medical colleges. Indian medical colleges have fewer seats compared to countries like China. There are a lot of rules about how big a college should be or what facilities it should have, which makes it hard to increase the number of seats. For private colleges, making the college bigger is risky. They might not get enough students to fill the extra seats, and it costs a lot to hire more teachers and build new buildings. Even public colleges have difficulties because they often don't get enough money.

The government believes in focusing on quality. They have a special way of teaching that makes sure doctors are well-trained. But this method means they can't teach many students at once. The US, which has a similar teaching method, has come up with creative solutions to train more students without reducing quality. The main body for medical education in India is trying to make sure that opportunities to study medicine are spread out evenly across the country. But this approach has its problems. For example, many doctors from places with lots of medical colleges move to other areas, so just spreading out colleges might not be the best solution.

India needs to find a balance. It has to train more doctors without compromising the quality of education, and also make sure everyone gets a fair chance to study medicine, no matter where they live.

### Keep Water at the Centre- Indian Express Ideas

-Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **World Food Day and Its Significance:** October 16 is World Food Day, commemorating the 1945 founding of the FAO to ensure global food and nutrition security. Though food production is ample, its distribution is not uniform.
2. **This Year's Theme:** The focus is on the relationship between water and food: "Water is Life. Water is Food."
3. **India's Food Security Evolution:** India, once dependent on food imports, now exports large quantities of cereals and has seen growth in dairy, poultry, and fishery sectors. However, malnourishment remains an issue, particularly among children.
4. **India's Agricultural Water Usage:** With 18% of the world's population but only 4% of freshwater resources, India's challenge is to balance agricultural water use with growing urban needs. Efficient water use and conservation are essential.
5. **Challenges and Solutions:** Increasing irrigated land, promoting water-efficient crops, and incentivizing water-saving practices are crucial. Sustainable food security hinges on judicious water use.

#### **Mains Easy Language**

Every year on October 16th, we celebrate "World Food Day." This day was created because of an organization set up by the United Nations in 1945. Their main job was to make sure everyone around the world had enough to eat, especially after the damage caused by World War II. But, even now, while there's a lot of food being produced, not everyone gets their fair share.

The big message this year is about the connection between water and food. Basically, water isn't just for drinking – it's super important for growing our food too! Back in the 1960s, India had to rely a lot on other countries for food. But now, things have changed a lot. In recent years, India has been selling huge amounts of foods like rice and wheat to other countries. Plus, India has become a big producer of milk, chicken, and fish. But even with all this, many people in India don't get enough nutritious food, especially kids.

Now, here's the tricky part. Even though India has a lot of people, it doesn't have a lot of fresh water. And a big chunk of this water goes into farming. With more people being born and cities growing, India needs to think about how to grow food while also saving



| Clear your doubts now.



water for other needs. Some solutions include storing more water during rainy seasons, using water more wisely in farms, and changing the types of crops grown. For example, certain crops like rice use up a lot of water. Maybe farmers can be encouraged to grow other foods that don't need as much water. There are also some farming methods that use less water which could be promoted.

For India to make sure everyone has enough to eat in the future, it needs to be smart about how it uses water in farming. And this is important not just for India, but for the whole world!

### How Jews first migrated to Palestine and how Israel was born- Indian Express Explained

-History

1. **Gaza Situation:** The Israeli military is gearing up for a possible assault on Gaza City, advising many civilians to evacuate.
2. **Origins of the Israel-Palestine Conflict:** 'Israel' has biblical roots, with Abraham's descendants settling in what is today's Israel. By the 19th century, this area was part of the Ottoman Empire.
3. **Zionism's Rise:** Due to Anti-Semitism Persecution in Europe led Jews to desire their own homeland, giving birth to Zionism. Palestine, with its biblical ties, became the primary choice.
4. **Pre-World War I:** Jewish Migration Jews migrated to Palestine, often buying lands from absentee landlords, leading to tensions with local Arabs.
5. **Balfour Declaration's Impact:** The 1917 Balfour Declaration saw Britain supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine, causing heightened Palestinian opposition.
6. **British Mandate Era Violence:** Post-World War I, Palestine under the British mandate witnessed escalating Arab-Jewish violence from 1930-1938.
7. **Palestinian Leadership Divisions:** The Palestinian leadership showed internal divisions, with multiple factions arising. The British proposed partition was met with mixed reactions.
8. **British Exit and UN Resolution:** In 1947, Britain handed the Palestine issue to the UN, leading to a proposed division of Palestine. Israel declared independence in 1948, marking a tragic event for Palestinians.

### **Mains-Easy Language**

The Israeli army is telling a lot of people to get out of Gaza City because they might be planning a big move there. A long time ago, according to the Bible, a place called 'Israel' was where some important people from the Bible lived. Fast forward to the 1800s, this place was under the control of the Ottoman Empire, a big, powerful group back then.

In different parts of the world, especially Europe, Jewish people were being treated really badly. Because of this, they started thinking, "We need our own place where no one can hurt us." This idea was called Zionism. They thought about making homes in different countries but finally decided on Palestine, where their ancestors lived.

Jews started moving to Palestine. They bought a lot of land there. But, the local people, the Palestinians, were not happy about this because they felt like their lands were being taken away. Plus, these new Jewish people didn't really mix with the locals.

In 1917, Britain, who was fighting in World War I, made a promise. They told the Jewish people, "If you support us in the war, we'll help you make a home in Palestine." This was called the Balfour Declaration. Palestinians didn't like this because they felt it was their land.

After World War I, Britain was in charge of Palestine. During the 1930s, there were lots of fights between Jews and Palestinians. Both sides were angry and hurt each other. The British tried to control the situation, but it was very tough.

A British group suggested that maybe the best thing was to split the land: one part for Jews and another for Palestinians. But this idea had mixed feelings. The Jews wanted to negotiate, but the Palestinians didn't like it at all.





Finally, in 1947, the United Nations, a big group of countries, decided to split Palestine into two: one part for Jews and the other for Palestinians. But the Palestinians were very unhappy with this. In 1948, Israel said, "We are now an independent country," and this was a very sad day for Palestinians. They call it the Nakba, which means "catastrophe".

### **The world needs to stop taking water for granted-The Hindu Editorial**

-Sociology

#### 1. Water scarcity and food security

- Water scarcity is a major threat to food security, especially in rainfed areas.
- Climate change is exacerbating water scarcity and making it more difficult to produce food.
- Innovative and sustainable water management practices are essential to ensure food security in the future.

#### 2. The role of irrigation

- Irrigation can be an effective way to make agriculture more resilient to climate change and water stress.
- However, irrigation can also have negative impacts on the environment, if not managed sustainably.
- It is important to invest in environmentally and socially sustainable irrigation systems.

#### 3. Climate change adaptation

- Farmers need to adapt to climate change by using climate-smart agricultural practices.
- This includes using drought-tolerant crops, improving soil health, and using water more efficiently.
- Governments and international organizations need to support farmers in adapting to climate change.

#### 4. Steps needed

- To achieve global food and nutrition security, we need political commitment and concrete investment in:
- Innovative and proven technologies to help farmers increase productivity, adapt to climate change, and reduce their environmental impact.
- Environmentally and socially sustainable irrigation and water management strategies.
- Improved sanitation and drinking water supplies in rural areas.
- Efficient food and water recycling strategies.
- Strengthened institutional arrangements and capacity for sustainable and equitable water regulations, management, access, and ownership.

### **Mains easy Language**

Water scarcity is a major threat to food security, especially in rainfed areas. Climate change is exacerbating water scarcity and making it more difficult to produce food. Innovative and sustainable water management practices are essential to ensure food security in the future. Irrigation can be an effective way to make agriculture more resilient to climate change and water stress. However, irrigation can also have negative impacts on the environment, if not managed sustainably. It is important to invest in environmentally and socially sustainable irrigation systems. Farmers need to adapt to climate change by using climate-smart agricultural practices. This includes using drought-tolerant crops, improving soil health, and using water more efficiently.





Governments and international organizations need to support farmers in adapting to climate change. To achieve global food and nutrition security, we need political commitment and concrete investment in: innovative and proven technologies to help farmers increase productivity, adapt to climate change, and reduce their environmental impact; environmentally and socially sustainable irrigation and water management strategies; improved sanitation and drinking water supplies in rural areas; efficient food and water recycling strategies; and strengthened institutional arrangements and capacity for sustainable and equitable water regulations, management, access, and ownership.

### Olympian heights - The Hindu Editorial

-Sociology

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Olympics as a Soft-Power Medium:** Throughout history, the Olympics have been used as a means of enhancing a nation's soft power. Governments worldwide believe in the significant impact the games can have on sports, economics, socio-culture, and even politics.
2. **India's Aspiration:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared India's intention to host the 2036 Olympics, signalling the nation's global ambitions. India also expressed interest in hosting the Youth Olympics to overcome past concerns like the controversial 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.
3. **Global Ambitions:** India seeks a place at the global high table, whether through a permanent UN Security Council seat or its enthusiasm for the G-20 presidency. Hosting the Olympics can bolster its position in an ever-changing global landscape.
4. **Sporting Achievements:** India aims to capitalise on its recent success at the Asian Games, with a record 107 medals. The nation has seen a consistent improvement in multi-disciplinary competitions since Abhinav Bindra's historic gold medal in Beijing 2008.
5. **Challenges of Hosting the Olympics:** Hosting a mega-event like the Olympics presents immense challenges, including prohibitively high costs. Previous host cities, such as Rio and Tokyo, faced public outcry over expenses, with Tokyo's financial burden doubling its initial estimate.
6. **A Changing Approach by the IOC:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) now emphasises tailoring event projects to fit the specific economic, social, and environmental realities of the host country. This approach acknowledges the diverse challenges each host nation faces.
7. **India's Success Depends on Complexities:** India's success in hosting the Olympics will hinge on its ability to navigate these complexities, align its aspirations with practical considerations, and manage the event effectively.

#### Mains easy Language

In a move that highlights India's global ambitions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed India's desire to host the 2036 Olympics during an International Olympic Committee session in Mumbai. This announcement is significant because hosting the Olympics can bring sporting, economic, and political benefits, similar to how it did for post-World War Europe, post-apartheid South Africa, and Brazil in the 2010s. India is also considering hosting the Youth Olympics, signalling its determination to overcome the negative reputation associated with the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. With India's recent success at the Asian Games, where it won a remarkable 107 medals, there is growing optimism about the country's performance at multi-disciplinary competitions, including the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics. However, hosting the Olympics is a colossal undertaking with considerable financial burdens, as seen in Rio and Tokyo. To address this, the International Olympic Committee now encourages host cities to customize their plans based on their unique economic, social, and environmental situations. India's success in hosting the Olympics will depend on effectively managing these complexities and turning its aspirations into reality.







## Closing the gender pay gap in the workforce-Hindu Opinion

-Sociology

### Key Takeaways

#### 1. Challenging Economic Orthodoxy:

- Traditional economic beliefs attributed women's absence from the labor force to childcare responsibilities and lower education.
- Claudia Goldin challenged these ideas and proposed market-related solutions to gender pay disparities.

#### 2. Claudia Goldin's Lifelong Work:

- Claudia Goldin has dedicated her career to addressing the issues faced by educated, frustrated stay-at-home mothers.
- Her work has given a name and voice to these problems.
- Claudia Goldin's work underscores the importance of restructuring workplaces and societal structures to close the gender pay gap and achieve true gender convergence in labour market outcomes.

#### 3. Evolution of the American Economy:

- Goldin's research traces the transformation of the American economy, where women were initially excluded from market activities during the shift from home to factory production.
- With the shift to jobs in offices, schools, and hospitals, women entered the workforce but continued to earn less than men.

#### 4. Gender Wage Gap and Parental Responsibilities:

- The gender wage gap is attributed to women's inability to take on jobs with demanding, all-consuming responsibilities.
- Parental responsibilities, such as childcare, make it challenging for women to work long hours and irregular schedules.

#### 5. Gender Ideologies and Family Duties:

- Gender ideologies often lead women to take on more family duties, while men focus on their careers.
- This societal division can result in women choosing a slower and safer career track, referred to as the "mommy track."

#### 6. Solutions to Gender Pay Gap:

- Professor Goldin proposes restructuring the workplace to reduce reliance on heroic efforts, promote moderate work hours, and ensure predictable schedules.
- This approach aims to address rising income inequality within households and allow couples to specialize in their roles to increase family income.

**7. Similarities with Juliet Schor:** Goldin's work aligns with Juliet Schor's argument that hiring two workers for long hours is more cost-effective for companies than three workers with regular hours.

**8. Challenges in India:** India faces low women's employment rates, but there is potential for change with the growth of the service sector, increased education, and declining fertility.

#### 9. Reshaping Work and Social Environments:

- Achieving a work-life balance for both men and women requires reshaping the work and social environment.
- Work structures should respect workers' time and reduce the emphasis on extremely long hours.

#### 10. Need for Supportive Institutions:

- Institutions like schools requiring parental supervision for homework and urban developments placing homes far from workplaces need to be reformed.





- Achieving gender convergence in labor market outcomes depends on creating these supportive institutions.

### **Mains Easy Language**

The article discusses how Claudia Goldin's groundbreaking work addresses the gender pay gap in the workforce. In the past, people believed women stayed home due to childcare and lower education. Goldin challenged this, highlighting that the real issue lay within the job market.

Goldin has spent her career giving a voice to educated women who felt frustrated staying home. She explained how the American economy evolved, with women initially excluded from work when it shifted from home-based to factory work. Even as jobs moved to offices, schools, and hospitals, women still earned less than men.

The key problem is that women often can't take on jobs with demanding responsibilities because of their parental duties. This leads to the "mommy track," where women choose slower careers to balance family life. Goldin suggests reshaping the workplace, reducing extreme working hours, and making schedules more predictable to bridge this gap.

Her ideas resonate with Juliet Schor, who argued that hiring fewer people for longer hours benefits companies. Goldin's observations also relate to India's low women's employment rates. The service sector's growth, better education, and lower fertility rates could offer more opportunities for women.

To truly close the gender pay gap, we need to reshape both work environments and social structures, allowing men and women to balance work and family life. This means reining in institutions that demand excessive time commitments, such as schools and long commutes. Until we create these supportive environments, achieving true gender equality in the labor market remains a challenge.

**17th October, 2023**

### **It's Not Just Nine Months- Indian Express Editorial**

-Society

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Legal Abortion Expansion:** In 2021, India extended the upper gestational limit for legal abortion to 24 weeks for specific categories of "vulnerable women," including cases of substantial fetal abnormalities.
2. **High Court and Supreme Court Petitions:** Before the 2021 amendment, women often approached the courts to seek judicial authorization for late-term abortions when they crossed the 20-week gestational limit.
3. **Post-Amendment Trends:** Despite the amendment, women continue to seek court approval for abortions beyond the prescribed limits, especially for reasons like substantial fetal abnormalities or rape.
4. **Challenges in the Process:** Women who approach the courts for late-term abortions face complex, time-consuming, and emotionally challenging processes, including multiple medical examinations and legal proceedings.
5. **International Standards:** Indian abortion laws are relatively liberal but do not align with international human rights standards. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the decriminalization of abortion and the removal of gestational limits.
6. **X vs. Principal Secretary Case:** In the X vs. Principal Secretary case, the Supreme Court recognized the need for a rights-based approach to abortion, acknowledging the physical and mental health impact of unwanted pregnancies on women.
7. **Recent Case:** In a recent case, a woman's plea for a late-term abortion due to mental health concerns was rejected, highlighting the continued challenges and disparities in implementing abortion laws.

#### **Mains Easy Language:**



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In 2021, India expanded the legal timeframe for abortion to 24 weeks for certain "vulnerable women," such as those with substantial fetal abnormalities. Before this change, women often went to court to get permission for late-term abortions once they exceeded the 20-week limit. Even after the amendment, women still face hurdles and uncertainties in the legal and medical processes when seeking late-term abortions.

While Indian abortion laws are relatively lenient compared to some countries, they don't fully align with global human rights standards. The World Health Organization recommends removing gestational limits on abortion and treating women's needs on a case-by-case basis.

In a recent case, a woman's request for a late-term abortion due to mental health issues was denied. This decision raises questions about whether certain reasons for seeking an abortion are considered more valid than others. The process of seeking late-term abortions remains challenging, and women continue to face barriers even after the legal changes.

### **What the latest jobs data say- Indian Express Editorial**

Economy

#### **Key Takeaway**

1. **Official Employment Data:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the latest installment of India's official employment data, known as the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), covering the period from July 2022 to June 2023.
2. **Significance of PLFS:** PLFS provides insights into the state of employment in India, including data on the demand for work, unemployment rates, gender disparities in employment, and the types of jobs people have.
3. **Data Collection:** The survey collects data in two ways, Usual Status (US) and Current Weekly Status (CWS), with CWS becoming more widely used due to its better recall over the past week.
4. **Unemployment Rate (UER):** The UER measures the proportion of people who sought work in the past year but couldn't find it. The UER for individuals aged 15 and above decreased from 6.6% to 5.1% over the last year.
5. **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** The LFPR indicates the population seeking employment and significantly increased in the past year to 54.6% of Indians above 15 years of age.
6. **Women in the Workforce:** Female LFPR has been on the rise, particularly in 2019-20 and 2022-23, suggesting an increasing demand for jobs among women.
7. **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** The WPR shows the percentage of employed individuals in the population and has been increasing, especially in 2019-20 and 2022-23.
8. **Monthly Earnings:** Despite fluctuations, monthly earnings have shown minimal changes over the past six years, which is notable given the increase in inflation.
9. **Distribution of Workers:** The data reveals the types of jobs people have, with a rise in self-employment, particularly among women.

#### **Mains in Easy Language:**

The latest installment of India's official employment data, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), provides insights into the country's employment landscape. It measures various factors such as the unemployment rate, labor force participation, and types of jobs people have.



| Clear your doubts now.



The unemployment rate decreased from 6.6% to 5.1% over the last year, indicating more people found jobs. However, labor force participation increased significantly to 54.6% of Indians above 15 years of age, with more women joining the workforce.

Despite these positive trends, it's crucial to look at the types of jobs and their earnings. Most new jobs are in self-employment, which often occurs when the regular job market struggles. The data also suggests that women, who may have been outside the workforce in the past, are joining as unpaid helpers in household enterprises.

In summary, while the data shows positive trends in employment and women's participation, it's essential to consider the nature of jobs and income levels, which haven't improved significantly in recent years.

### **Doublespeak on terror- Indian Express Editorial**

Security

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Fragmented Anti-Terror Measures:** Global counterterrorism is becoming disjointed as countries prioritize local threats over a united approach.
2. **Rising Terrorism in Africa:** The Sahel region in sub-Saharan Africa is witnessing increased terrorist activities, especially from groups like IS and Al-Shabaab.
3. **Terrorists' Tech Use:** Terrorists are exploiting emerging technologies, like drones and online platforms, for recruitment and attacks.
4. **Religiophobia in Policy:** The politicization of religiophobia, notably Islamophobia, is being integrated into some counterterrorism strategies, leading to concerns over biased recognition of attacks on non-Abrahamic religions.

#### **Mains in Easy Language**

The article delves into four significant trends in international terrorism. First, it discusses the increasing fragmentation in global efforts to combat terrorism. While post-9/11 years saw a united front against terrorism, the world is gradually reverting to individual countries focusing on their specific terrorist threats rather than collectively addressing the issue.

Secondly, the article highlights the alarming rise of terrorism in Africa, with a particular focus on the Sahel region in sub-Saharan Africa. This region has emerged as a hotspot for terrorism, witnessing a surge in activities, notably by groups like Islamic State (IS) and Al-Shabaab.

The third trend emphasizes the adoption of new and emerging technologies by terrorist organizations. From drones to online platforms, these groups are utilizing technology for recruitment, radicalization, and conducting attacks, making them increasingly sophisticated and challenging to counter.

Lastly, the article raises concerns about the politicization of religiophobia, specifically Islamophobia, to justify acts of terrorism. It notes that some nations are attempting to include religiophobia in their counterterrorism strategies, raising questions about the selective recognition of attacks against religions beyond the Abrahamic faiths.

The article also draws attention to India's concerns about Canada's stance on terrorism, especially concerning Khalistani terrorists on Canadian soil. It underscores the importance of addressing these trends and suggests that India should engage with the Canadian government to bring about necessary changes.





## The Indian Himalayan Region needs its own EIA-The Hindu Editorial

### Environment

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Defined by the UN, the EIA evaluates a project's environmental, social, and economic consequences before implementation. It needs robust baseline data to predict and mitigate potential impacts effectively.
2. **Historical Background:** India's EIA began in the 1970s, initially focused on river valley projects. The first EIA directive came in 1994, mandating Environmental Clearance (EC) for select projects. This was eventually replaced by the EIA 2006 notification.
3. **EIA in India:** The 2006 notification lays the groundwork for the EIA process, specifying projects requiring environmental clearance. Such projects are categorized by industry and purpose with consistent threshold limits applied throughout the country.
4. **IHR Neglect:** A major critique is that the EIA doesn't adequately address the specific needs of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The Himalayas' vulnerability isn't given separate consideration in the EIA notifications.
5. **Flawed Graded Approach:** India's risk management system, based on project location, doesn't cater specifically to the IHR, despite its significance as a water and ecosystem provider.
6. **Regulator Absence:** India lacks a national regulator for unbiased project appraisal and monitoring, leading to potential biases in the EIA process.
7. **Box-Ticking Issue:** Many EIAs are done as mere formalities, especially in the IHR, overlooking the region's distinct vulnerabilities.
8. **Alternative Solutions:** The piece recommends strategic environmental assessments that consider cumulative impacts, which could better address the IHR's unique needs.

#### Mains easy language

In simple terms, the article discusses the need for a more thoughtful approach when it comes to development in India, especially in mountainous regions like the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). It emphasizes the importance of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which is a way to understand how any big project might affect the environment, the people, and the economy before it's even started. The article looks back at how this process started in the 1970s and evolved over the years, but it suggests that there are some major issues. One key problem is that the EIA process treats all regions of India the same, without considering that the IHR is more vulnerable to things like extreme weather and landslides. This has led to problems, like the recent Teesta dam breach and flooding in Himachal Pradesh. The article also points out that there's no strong national authority to make sure these assessments are done properly. Sometimes, it seems like they're just a formality rather than a real look at the potential problems a project could cause. To fix these issues, the article suggests that India needs to come up with a better approach for the IHR and consider different standards and approaches that match the unique needs of these mountainous regions. It also recommends exploring other tools like strategic environmental assessments, which could help make sure that development in these areas is done more responsibly and in a way that doesn't harm the environment or the people who live there.

## Confronting the longterm risks of Artificial Intelligence -The Hindu editorial

Science and technology

#### Key Takeaways



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1. **AI Risk Evolution:** AI risk changes with technology and societal values, as highlighted by movies like "Ex Machina." Recognizing both immediate and future risks is vital.
2. **Short-Term Risks:** Immediate AI risks focus on ensuring AI functions reliably in crucial areas like infrastructure.
3. **Long-Term Risks:** These encompass AI's potential blending with biotech, leading to emotion or thought manipulation. The long-term risks also involve disruptions to essential societal systems and require ethical contemplation.
4. **"Runaway AI" Concerns:** There are fears of AI manipulating vital systems, resulting in catastrophic outcomes, even posing threats like human extinction.
5. **Superintelligence Dilemma:** AI approaching human-level intelligence presents alignment challenges, with ethical values often sidelined by development pressures.
6. **AI Governance:** A unified global AI regulatory approach is lacking. The EU's "risk-based" method, though valuable, might oversimplify AI risks. Comprehensive oversight is essential.
7. **International Collaboration:** The absence of unified AI regulations can lead to AI advancements misaligned with global ethics, risking international peace.
8. **Military AI Threats:** Merging AI and warfare heightens risks. Establishing global norms for AI's role in warfare, akin to regulations for nuclear weapons, is crucial.

### Mains easy language

AI risks change over time, just like how we used to be carefree about sharing personal info before the internet age. The movie "Ex Machina" is a great example of this change. In the movie, an AI named Ava starts off looking amazing, but later, she gets pretty sneaky, showing us how our feelings about AI can change as we understand it better. In the short term, we want AI to work without messing up everyday things, like making sure the power and water run smoothly. But as we look into the future, we see bigger worries. AI mixing with biotech could mess with our feelings and thoughts, which is pretty scary. There's also the fear of AI messing up vital stuff like power and water, which could be really bad. Then, there's the scary idea of "runaway AI," like AI going crazy and doing harmful stuff. As AI gets smarter, we must make sure it follows our rules. Right now, we're racing to make AI better, but we might forget about safety. Rules for AI are important, but we don't have a worldwide plan. This is risky because some countries might make AI that doesn't follow the rules, causing problems. We should all work together to make sure AI helps us, not hurts us.

### Palliative care, a way to reduce financial distress for people with life limiting diseases-The hindu text and context

#### Key takeaways

1. **Financial Strain from Healthcare in India:** Many Indians fall into poverty due to healthcare costs, especially those with non-communicable diseases. Even government hospitals, supposedly free, have hidden costs like travel, unavailable medicines, and lost wages.
2. **Chronic Disease Costs:** Chronic conditions impose heavy financial burdens. For example, cancer patients spend an average of ₹8,035 per outpatient visit and ₹39,085 for hospitalization. Over 65% of end-stage cancer patients face impoverishment from healthcare costs.
3. **Palliative Care's Role:** Palliative care focuses on enhancing life quality for patients with severe illnesses by relieving symptoms and reducing unnecessary expenses. Early palliative care can cut healthcare costs by up to 25%, with services offered in various settings, reducing the need for costly travel.
4. **Palliative Care Access Issues:** Awareness of palliative care is limited in India, and most insurance doesn't cover it. Public health centers often lack resources to provide it.





5. **Incorporating Palliative Care:** To make palliative care impactful, consistent funding for the National Program for Palliative Care is vital, instead of sporadic annual budgeting.
6. **Benefits of Palliative Care:** Palliative care offers cost benefits to patients and healthcare providers. It can boost bed utilization in hospitals, improve patient quality of life, and mitigate financial strain.
7. **Moral Imperative:** The health system has a moral duty to prioritize palliative care for those with severe illnesses, yielding significant long-term benefits for both providers and patients.

### **Mains easy language**

Many people in India face severe financial difficulties when they or their loved ones get sick. Hospital bills can be so high that they push people into poverty or prevent them from seeking medical help altogether. This problem is especially common among individuals dealing with chronic diseases like cancer, heart issues, kidney failure, or stroke, leading to millions falling into poverty each year. Even in government hospitals, where treatment is supposed to be free, there are hidden costs like travel expenses, buying medicines that are often not available, and the loss of income from not being able to work. As a result, many families find themselves in financial distress, forced to sell their assets to cover the high healthcare costs. Palliative care is a special kind of medical care that focuses on improving the quality of life for people with serious illnesses. It's different from other medical treatments because it not only addresses the physical symptoms but also considers the social and economic challenges that patients and their families face. Studies have shown that starting palliative care early can reduce healthcare expenses by up to 25%. It can be provided through outpatient visits, inpatient stays, or even at home, which is more cost-effective and convenient for patients. Despite these benefits, there's limited awareness and funding for palliative care in India, making it inaccessible to many who could benefit from it. Incorporating palliative care into the healthcare system would require consistent funding and could save money for both patients and hospitals while also improving the overall quality of care. Ultimately, it's a moral obligation for the healthcare system to prioritize palliative care, especially for individuals dealing with long-term and life-limiting illnesses.

**18th October 2023**

### **Court stops short- Indian Express Editorial**

Society

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Supreme Court's Partial Protection:** In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court of India took some steps to protect same-sex unions from discrimination and granted them certain legal rights. However, it fell short of granting full recognition to same-sex marriage.
2. **Lack of Alignment and Logic:** The Chief Justice's judgment was not aligned with at least three of his colleagues, and it lacked internal consistency. This limited approach will prolong the struggle for same-sex couples to live without fear and receive equal recognition.
3. **The Discriminatory Aspect:** The Special Marriage Act discriminates against same-sex couples by denying them the institution of marriage solely based on their sexual orientation, which is a form of discrimination.





**4. The Issue of Marriage Privilege:** Marriage is a socially privileged institution. Justices have proposed various solutions, such as civil unions, but these options don't fully recognize and name same-sex unions.

**5. Publicness and Commitment:** Marriage is a public and committed institution, reflecting a society's recognition of a unique form of commitment. The denial of same-sex marriage restricts public recognition of this commitment.

**6. Limited Impact of the Court's Actions:** While the Court proclaimed values and provided directions, it didn't challenge the executive branch effectively, leaving room for confusion and a lack of substantial progress in the protection of same-sex unions.

### **Mains in Easy Language**

In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court of India did something important for same-sex couples. They gave them some legal rights and said it's not okay to discriminate against them just because of their sexual orientation. But there's a catch—they stopped short of saying that same-sex couples can get married.

Chief Justice and some of his colleagues weren't exactly on the same page about this. What's even more confusing is that the Court's decision doesn't seem to make a lot of sense.

This judgment means that while same-sex couples get some legal protection, they don't get the full recognition of marriage. Well, marriage is a big deal in our society. It's not just a piece of paper; it's a public affirmation of a special commitment between two people.

The judges argue that marriage isn't a fundamental right in itself, so they can't change the rules of the Special Marriage Act. One judge suggests that maybe same-sex couples can have something like a civil union, which is kind of like marriage, but not quite. Another judge talks about granting some rights to same-sex couples, but doesn't really spell out what kind of union that would be. So, even the judges can't agree on how to treat same-sex unions.

The bottom line is that the Court's decision leaves same-sex unions in a bit of a limbo. They don't get full marriage rights, and they don't get a clear, recognized status either. It's like they're stuck in a half-defined identity.

This judgment shows that while some progress has been made in protecting the rights of same-sex couples, there's still work to be done. The Court didn't take a strong stand against discrimination in this case. So, the fight for full recognition of same-sex unions continues, and it's a bit more complicated than we might have hoped.

### **With strings attached- Indian Express Editorial**

Polity

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Delayed Women's Reservation Bill:** The article delves into the prolonged delays surrounding the Women's Reservation Bill, a crucial legislative proposal aimed at enhancing women's representation in Indian politics. This prolonged delay is the backdrop against which various concerns are discussed.
2. **Prime Minister's Claims:** The Prime Minister invoked divine inspiration to champion women's empowerment through the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. However, the article questions the decision to defer the bill's implementation, leading to speculation about the motives behind this delay.



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3. **Concerns of Impropriety:** The piece addresses various issues surrounding the bill, such as the use of religious claims in the political sphere, the patronizing title of the legislation that may inadvertently objectify women, and the simultaneous increase in gender-based violence during the government's tenure.
4. **Purpose of the Bill:** The Women's Reservation Bill seeks to reserve one-third of parliamentary seats for women, an initiative with considerable potential to transform the political landscape in favor of gender equality.
5. **Historical Background:** The article offers insights into the historical context, where women representatives previously rejected reservations, deeming them as underestimating women's political prowess.
6. **Changing Political Landscape:** It discusses the transformative effects of democratic movements in the 1980s and 1990s that diversified Parliament's composition, enabling the acceptance of women's reservations as a pertinent issue.
7. **Ethical Crisis:** The article concludes by highlighting that the bill's sudden passage, without addressing concerns like "quotas within quotas," may reflect an ethical predicament within the political elite, prompting questions about the true intentions behind women's reservations.

### Mains in Easy Language

The article discusses the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill in Indian politics, highlighting the delays in its implementation. The Prime Minister claimed divine guidance for empowering women but postponed the bill's enactment, raising questions about the political motivations behind the delay. The use of religious claims and patriarchal language in a democratic space and the simultaneous rise in violence against women during the government's tenure are subjects of concern.

The Women's Reservation Bill, introduced in 1996, aims to provide one-third of parliamentary seats for women. In the past, reservations for women were rejected by women representatives, who believed it underestimated their capabilities. However, changing political dynamics, marked by democratic upsurges in the 1980s and 1990s and the emergence of women as a political force, led to a consensus on women's reservations.

One issue is the conflict between feminist and dominant caste concerns. While reservations for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have empowered many women, they have also strengthened the entrenched power of dominant caste groups. The opposition to the bill, which insisted on "quotas within quotas" for OBC and Muslim women, was resisted across the political spectrum.

The sudden passing of the bill, without addressing the "quotas within quotas" issue, reflects an ethical crisis in Indian politics, raising questions about the intentions behind women's reservations.

### The day after, a disquiet- Indian Express Editorial

#### Society

##### Key Takeaways:

1. **Supreme Court Verdict:** The Supreme Court of India recently pronounced its verdict on cases related to same-sex marriage, sparking anticipation and debate.
2. **Core Issues:** The central issues revolved around whether there's a fundamental right to marriage, the interpretation of the Special Marriage Act to include LGBTQ+ relationships, the recognition of civil unions, and the obligation of the state to acknowledge these relationships and their associated rights.
3. **Diverse Opinions on the Bench:** The judgment unveiled differences among the judges, with Chief Justice Chandrachud, Justice Kaul, and Justice Bhat holding distinct views.
4. **Chief Justice's Stance:** Chief Justice Chandrachud upheld the Court's authority to address the matter, asserted the roots of queerness in Indian culture, and proclaimed that the right to a union isn't tied to sexual orientation, falling under fundamental rights in the Constitution.





**5. Justice Kaul's Position:** Justice Kaul concurred with the Chief Justice's viewpoint on the Special Marriage Act's discrimination but refrained from making broader interpretations that could impact various laws.

**6. Justice Bhat's Perspective:** Justice Bhat, supported by Justice Kohli, agreed that there's no fundamental right to marriage but asserted a right to relationships under Article 21 of the Constitution. However, they did not go as far as recognizing self-development rights, an obligation on the state to acknowledge civil unions, or adopting additional rights for LGBTQ+ couples.

**7. The Majority Decision:** Justices Bhat, Kohli, and Narasimha formed the majority, backing the viewpoint that there's no fundamental right to marriage but affirming a right to relationships under Article 21.

### **Mains in Easy language**

The recent Supreme Court verdict on same-sex marriage in India has generated significant interest. The core issues included whether there's a fundamental right to marriage for LGBTQ+ individuals, the interpretation of the Special Marriage Act to include their relationships, and the recognition of civil unions with associated rights. Additionally, it addressed whether the state is obligated to acknowledge these relationships and their rights.

The verdict revealed diverse opinions among the judges. Chief Justice Chandrachud emphasized the Court's authority to address the matter, asserting that queerness has Indian roots and that the right to a union is not linked to one's sexual orientation. Justice Kaul concurred with the Chief Justice but avoided making broader interpretations that could affect other laws.

Justice Bhat, supported by Justice Kohli, shared the view that there's no fundamental right to marriage but argued that a right to relationships exists under Article 21 of the Constitution. However, they did not go as far as recognizing self-development rights, an obligation on the state to acknowledge civil unions, or adopting additional rights for LGBTQ+ couples.

In the majority decision, Justices Bhat, Kohli, and Narasimha upheld the perspective that there's no fundamental right to marriage but affirmed a right to relationships under Article 21 of the Constitution. The verdict is indicative of the challenges in addressing the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals within the legal framework.

### **A Key To Jaffna- Indian Express Editorial**

#### **International Relations**

##### **Key Takeaways:**

**1. Resumption of Sea Travel:** A ferry service from Nagapattinam, India, to Kankesanthurai in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, has recommenced, marking a significant revival of sea travel between the two countries.

**2. Historical Background:** This maritime service, dating back to the early 1900s, was discontinued in the 1980s due to ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. Its revival has been on the agenda of both Indian and Sri Lankan governments for over a decade.

**3. India-Sri Lanka Maritime Ties:** An MoU for sea connectivity was signed between India and Sri Lanka in 2011, and a ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo started the same year but was discontinued within six months due to logistical issues.

**4. Promoting Commerce and People-to-People Contact:** The resumption of sea travel is expected to boost trade between India and Sri Lanka, foster closer people-to-people ties, and facilitate pilgrimages to religious centers and temple towns in both countries.

**5. India's Neighbourhood First Policy:** The Narendra Modi government emphasizes strengthening ties with neighboring countries, aligning with its Neighbourhood First policy. A vision document in July highlighted maritime connectivity, port development, and sea route revival.





**6. Countering Chinese Influence:** India seeks to counter China's growing influence in Sri Lanka by highlighting the civilizational aspects of its ties with Colombo and promoting the movement of people and ideas over centuries.

**7. Concerns to Address:** Early concerns include the relatively high ticket price (over Rs 7,600 for a one-way ticket) and the lack of booking facilities on popular tourist platforms. The government must address these issues and expedite the resumption of the Rameshwaram-Talaimannar ferry service.

### Mains in Easy Language

The re-establishment of a ferry service from India to Sri Lanka is a significant development that revives a historical maritime connection between the two countries. This sea route, in operation since the early 1900s, was suspended in the 1980s due to ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka. Over the past 12 years, both Indian and Sri Lankan governments have been keen on restoring this vital link.

The new ferry, named Cheriya Pani, will take approximately 3.5 hours to cover the 110-kilometer journey, offering a boost to trade and people-to-people interactions. This sea route holds strategic importance in India's Neighbourhood First policy, with the governments emphasizing maritime connectivity and port development.

In recent years, India has aimed to counter China's growing influence in Sri Lanka, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While China has invested significantly in Sri Lanka, India emphasizes the historical and cultural aspects of its relations with Colombo.

However, there are initial concerns about the ticket price, which exceeds Rs 7,600 for a one-way journey, and the absence of booking options on popular tourist websites. These issues need addressing, and the resumption of the Rameshwaram-Talaimannar ferry service, also proposed during President Wickremesinghe's visit, should be expedited.

### The Human brain has a dizzying array of mystery cells- Indian Express Explained

Science Tech Health

#### Key Takeaways:

- Advanced Brain Mapping Revealed:** A team of international scientists has mapped the human brain with unprecedented detail, discovering over 3,300 unique brain cell types, a figure tenfold more than previously known. The \$375 million project, which started in 2017, utilized cutting-edge technologies to analyze millions of brain cells from both cadavers and biopsies.
- Leadership and Findings:** Ed Lein of the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle spearheaded parts of the research. The findings were spread across 21 papers in journals, including Science.
- Gene Activation in Brain Cells:** With support from the National Institutes of Health, the team studied how different genes are activated across cell types, revealing the brain's diverse genetic landscape. Tissue samples for the study were sourced from recently deceased individuals and surgical patients.
- Brain's Complex Cellular Landscape:** While some new cells were located in the cerebral cortex, essential for advanced cognitive tasks, many were found in deeper brain regions. The research highlighted that neurons, known for processing information, constitute only half the brain cells. The other half, including astrocytes and microglia, which support neuron function and act as immune defenders, also displayed new types.

### Mains in Easy Language



| Clear your doubts now.



A group of scientists from around the world teamed up to create a super-detailed map of our brain. They spent \$375 million on this project since 2017 and found more than 3,300 different kinds of brain cells! That's a lot more than we knew existed before. A scientist named Ed Lein, who works at a place in Seattle that studies the brain, played a big role in this project. They shared their findings in 21 different articles in some top science magazines.

They used new fancy tools and techniques to look closely at millions of brain cells. These cells came from people who had passed away or from people who were having brain surgeries. They also got some help and money from a big health organization. Most people think of the brain's surface, where we do a lot of our thinking, like talking and planning. And yes, they found some new cells there. But they found even more new kinds of cells deep inside the brain. And guess what? The brain's not just made of those electric-signaling cells we usually hear about, called neurons. Half of our brain is made up of other types of cells that help neurons work well and protect the brain. The scientists found new kinds of these helper cells too!

### Demolishing the frame from outside the Constitution-The Hindu Editorial

Polity

#### Key takeaways

- 1. Incident and Arrests:** Recently, the Delhi Police conducted raids on NewsClick, leading to the arrest of its founder, Prabir Purkayastha, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. They're accused of receiving pro-China funds and undermining India's internal security through their news coverage, allegations the news organization denies.
- 2. Broader Pattern of Challenges:** This incident is part of a larger trend in India. There's been an increase in violence against religious minorities, changes in political financing with opaque instruments like electoral bonds, and media repression. These trends raise serious questions about democracy and the rule of law.
- 3. Media and Judicial Response:** The media community expressed its concerns by writing a letter to Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud. They hope that the Indian Supreme Court, known for introducing the "basic structure doctrine" to protect fundamental rights and limit majoritarianism, would take notice of the situation.
- 4. Role of the Court in Democracy:** Debates over the judiciary's role in a democracy are longstanding. The courts are essential to protect the democratic process, even though they are unelected in a system dominated by an elected legislature.
- 5. Protecting Democracy's Integrity:** To justify their intervention in legislative decisions, scholars like John Hart Ely have argued that the courts should focus on preserving the integrity of the democratic process itself.
- 6. Textual vs. Substantive Protection:** The Indian Supreme Court has significant powers, but protecting democracy extends beyond the Constitution's written words.
- 7. Subversion from Outside:** Erosion of democratic conditions doesn't always require rewriting the Constitution. Actions like invoking terrorism laws against journalists or allowing hate speeches can significantly impact freedom of speech and democracy.
- 8. Court's Responsibility:** The Indian Supreme Court plays a crucial role in safeguarding democracy. If it turns a blind eye to the violation of democratic conditions outside the Constitution and laws, it endangers both the people's rights and the very identity of the Constitution and the Court.

#### Mains easy language



| Clear your doubts now.



Recent events in India saw extensive police raids and arrests, with the Delhi Police targeting the news portal NewsClick. Prabir Purkayastha, the founder, and its Editor-in-Chief were arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, accused of receiving funds from pro-China sources and allegedly undermining India's internal security through their news coverage, particularly during the 2020-21 farmers' protests. However, this incident is part of a broader, concerning trend. This pattern encompasses challenges to democracy and the rule of law in India, including an increase in violence against religious minorities, changes in political financing through mechanisms like electoral bonds, and press repression. The media community, alarmed by these developments, has reached out to Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, for intervention. They hope that the Indian Supreme Court, known for introducing the "basic structure doctrine" to protect fundamental rights, will address the situation.

The role of the judiciary in a democracy has been the subject of long standing debate, given that it's an unelected institution in a system dominated by elected representatives. Courts play a pivotal role in protecting the democratic process, ensuring its integrity. This is vital because if the democratic process is compromised, it casts doubt on the legitimacy of the representative body. Scholars argue that courts must safeguard the democratic process itself, even though they are unelected. While the Indian Supreme Court possesses significant powers and has the authority to strike down laws and restrict Parliament, protecting democracy goes beyond textual interpretation. Actions like invoking terrorism laws against journalists or tolerating hate speeches can undermine democracy without altering the Constitution's text. Chief Justice Chandrachud's view on these matters is of great importance as the Court's response will not only affect the people's rights but also determine the fate of both the Constitution and the judiciary.

### Law and custom-The Hindu editorial

Polity

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Legal Setback:** The Supreme Court's refusal to recognize same-sex marriages is a major legal setback for the LGBTQ+ community.
2. **Expectations Unmet:** There was widespread anticipation that the Constitution Bench would interpret the Special Marriage Act in a gender-neutral way, but this did not happen.
3. **Constitutional Rights:** Article 21 of the Indian Constitution has been expanded over the years to encompass rights like privacy, dignity, and marital choice. However, the Court did not extend these rights to same-sex marriages.
4. **Legislative Responsibility:** All five judges left the matter of same-sex marriage legalization to the legislature, in essence, supporting the government's position that such a change should be the domain of lawmakers.
5. **No Fundamental Right to Marry:** The Court negated the expectation that it would prevent discrimination against same-sex couples, concluding that there is no fundamental right to marry.
6. **Limited Statutory Validation:** The majority of judges viewed the right to seek social and legal validation through marriage as subject to statutory limitations.
7. **Adoption and Transpersons' Marriages:** The majority of judges disagreed with the idea of same-sex couples adopting children but agreed that transpersons could enter into heterosexual marriages.
8. **Right to Cohabit:** All judges supported the right of same-sex couples to cohabit without coercion or threats.
9. **Legislative Hurdles:** Given potential opposition to same-sex marriages on religious and cultural grounds in India, the prospects of Parliament taking the initiative to legalize them seem dim.



| Clear your doubts now.



**10. Committee Formation:** The Court directed the government to form a committee to determine the rights and entitlements of queer couples.

### Mains easy language

In a recent ruling, the Supreme Court of India declined to recognize same-sex marriages, delivering a significant setback to the LGBTQ+ community in the country. Many had hoped that this court decision would be a step toward equal rights for same-sex couples. However, the judges didn't extend legal recognition, instead leaving the issue for the legislature to decide. This means that India's government will have to pass a law to permit same-sex marriages.

The court's ruling highlights that there's no fundamental right to marry for same-sex couples, which disappointed those who expected equal treatment. While the LGBTQ+ community has the right to cohabit without coercion, the Court's stance leaves the door open for potential discrimination in marriage laws. The court's decision also puts adoption rights and legal recognition of transpersons' marriages in a state of uncertainty.

The LGBTQ+ community now faces an uphill battle for legal recognition and equality, with a reliance on government committees to determine their rights and entitlements. Considering potential opposition on cultural and religious grounds, progress towards equal rights may be slow and challenging.

### **When tigers and jackals get the same protection-The Hindu Editorial**

Environment

#### **Key takeaways-**

**1. Inclusion of Many Species in Wildlife Protection Act:** The Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act, 2022, includes a large number of species in its schedules without a clear objective or replicable process. Schedule 1 confers the highest protection to about 600 vertebrate species and numerous invertebrates, while Schedule 2 contains around 2,000 species, including over 1,000 bird species.

**2. Lack of Clarity on Conservation and Endangerment:** The new Act doesn't establish a clear connection between endangerment and conservation. Listing numerous species without prioritization makes it challenging to allocate conservation resources effectively. The Act provides the same level of protection to diverse species, including tigers and jackals, causing conservation inefficiencies.

**3. Unintended Consequences:** Listing species can lead to unintended consequences in law. For instance, Tree Preservation Acts in certain states discourage planting native trees, promoting exotics like Silver Oak. Listing species like spotted deer in Schedule 1 hampers the management of invasive species in some regions.

**4. Impact on People:** Some species in Schedule 1, like crocodiles, leopards, and elephants, pose significant physical, mental, and economic harm to people. The Act doesn't consider the plight of farmers and marginal cultivators affected by wildlife conflicts. The Act restricts hunting and traditional use of animals, which may harm local communities' livelihoods.

**5. Impact on Research and Conservation:** The Act's extensive listing of species complicates the process of obtaining permits for research, affecting environmental NGOs and citizen scientists. The paperwork and bureaucracy can hinder research and conservation efforts.



| Clear your doubts now.



**6. Balancing Conservation, People's Interests, and Research:** It's essential to address the issues of conservation, people's concerns, and research, each with varying degrees of urgency. Prioritizing the safety and well-being of those affected by wildlife conflicts is crucial. Management actions for species and habitats should consider ecology, species biology, and context, often requiring research and independent monitoring. Both citizens and ecologists should have the right to observe nature and collect data, as long as it's ethically and responsibly done, without causing undue harm to populations.

### Mains easy language

The Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act of 2022 has stirred controversy due to its extensive listing of species without a clear, replicable process. This act has two main issues. First, it lacks a clear link between endangerment and conservation, making it hard to prioritise which species need more attention. Consequently, it offers the same level of protection to diverse species, like tigers and jackals, which is inefficient. Second, it can lead to unintended consequences. For example, it restricts the felling of native trees, which discourages their planting, causing other issues. Moreover, some species, such as the spotted deer, in Schedule 1 cause problems in certain regions, but the Act hampers their management.

The Act also has a significant impact on people. Certain species in Schedule 1, like crocodiles, leopards, and elephants, pose serious physical, mental, and economic harm to people. Despite these challenges, the Act discourages hunting and traditional animal use, even when these practices have existed for centuries. The extensive listing of species also complicates the research process, making it more difficult for environmental NGOs and citizen scientists to get permits.

To address these concerns, it's important to prioritise the safety and well-being of people affected by wildlife conflicts. Additionally, wildlife management should consider ecological factors and species biology, often necessitating research and independent monitoring. While observing and studying wildlife is essential, it should be done responsibly and ethically without causing harm to populations. The Act's impact on conservation, people, and research must be addressed with varying degrees of urgency to strike a balance between protecting species and safeguarding human interests.

**19th October 2023**

### **The Measure of the Working Woman- The Hindu Editorial**

Society

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1. Unrecognized Contribution:** Women in India perform a significant amount of unpaid domestic work, including caring for their families and maintaining their homes. However, this crucial work often goes unnoticed.
- 2. Valuing Women's Labor:** It's essential to change how we view and account for the unpaid work that women do. This work plays a substantial role in the economy but is not adequately acknowledged.
- 3. Supporting Working Women:** Women often face challenges in juggling their jobs and household responsibilities. They need more support to achieve work-life balance.
- 4. Data Gaps:** Women's work patterns are irregular and seasonal, making it difficult to track their contributions accurately. As a result, their impact on the economy is often underestimated.
- 5. Childcare Services:** To enable more women to work full-time, it's important to provide accessible and high-quality childcare services, like creches.



| Clear your doubts now.



**6. Economic Empowerment:** Recognizing and supporting women's work is not only empowering but also crucial for India's economic growth goals.

### **For Mains in Easy Language:**

This article highlights the often unacknowledged but vital role that women play in the Indian economy. Women contribute significantly through their unpaid domestic work, which includes taking care of their families and managing their homes. However, this crucial work is not given the recognition it deserves. To move forward, it is essential to change how we perceive and account for the unpaid work that women do. This work is a substantial part of the economy, and it's high time it is acknowledged and valued. Moreover, women who aspire to work outside the home face a unique set of challenges in balancing their job responsibilities and family duties. They need more support to help them strike a better work-life balance. This support includes access to reliable and high-quality childcare services, such as creches, to enable more women to work full-time.

The irregular and seasonal nature of women's work makes it difficult to accurately track their contributions, resulting in an underestimation of their economic impact. By recognizing and properly valuing women's work, India can empower women and get closer to achieving its economic growth goals, all while reducing gender disparities in the workforce. In simple terms, this article underscores the need to acknowledge, support, and value women's work for a stronger, more inclusive, and vibrant Indian economy.

### **Sea service-The Hindu Editorial**

International Relations

### **Key Takeaways**

- 1. Fulfillment of a Long-standing Demand:** A new passenger ferry service now connects Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, addressing a long-standing demand due to disruptions caused by the Sri Lankan civil war.
- 2. Historical Maritime Links:** Traditional routes like Talaimannar to Rameswaram and Colombo to Thoothukudi were historically vital for transportation but were disrupted by a cyclone in 1964 and the civil war.
- 3. Air Services as the Only Option:** Maritime routes gave way to air travel. The Chennai-Jaffna air service and a private cruise service demonstrated potential for increased connectivity.
- 4. Benefits of the New Ferry Service:** The new ferry strengthens cultural, economic, and civilizational ties between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. It also enhances disaster management cooperation and may help repatriate Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu.
- 5. Operational Details and Challenges:** The service resumes in January, coinciding with the northeast monsoon. Challenges include a relatively high fare compared to air travel, suggesting a need to increase baggage allowance and improve Nagapattinam port amenities.
- 6. Role of Governments:** Success depends on efforts by both Indian and Sri Lankan governments. Alongside operational improvements, fostering economic ties, particularly Northern Province exports, is essential. Continued policy attention is vital, given Nagapattinam's economic challenges in Tamil Nadu.

### **For Mains in easy language**



| Clear your doubts now.





In simple terms, a new ferry service has started running between Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu. This is a big deal because people in both places have been wanting a sea link for a long time. For years, the movement of people and goods between these areas was disrupted due to the Sri Lankan civil war, and traditional maritime routes were affected.

In the past, there were routes connecting places like Rameswaram and Talaimannar, but these were disrupted by a cyclone in 1964 and the civil war. So, people had no option but to rely on air travel to move between these two regions.

The new ferry service is expected to bring several benefits. It will strengthen cultural, economic, and civilizational ties between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. It will also help with disaster management and maritime security. Additionally, it may allow Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu to return home if they wish.

The service will resume full operations in January, mainly because of the northeast monsoon. However, there are some challenges to address. The fare for the ferry is relatively high, and people prefer air travel. To make the ferry more attractive, it's suggested to increase baggage allowances and improve the facilities at Nagapattinam port.

The success of this ferry service relies on both the Indian and Sri Lankan governments working together to address these challenges and promote economic ties. This is important, especially for the less economically developed Nagapattinam area in Tamil Nadu.

### How quantum algorithms solve problems that classical computers can't - The Hindu Science section

Science and technology

#### Key Takeaways-

1. **Algorithmic Efficiency:** Quantum computers are powerful machines, but to unleash their full potential, it's crucial to develop smart algorithms. Simply having quantum hardware isn't enough; we need the right software to make it shine.
2. **Quantum vs. Classical Algorithms:** Quantum algorithms are sets of instructions, just like classical algorithms, but they use quantum gates to process information. What makes quantum algorithms special is their ability to leverage quantum properties, such as superposition, to solve problems more efficiently.
3. **Shor's Algorithm for Factorization:** Shor's algorithm is a quantum algorithm that efficiently factors large numbers, a task that classical algorithms struggle with.
4. **Efficiency Comparison:** Shor's algorithm is more efficient than any known classical algorithm for factorization, making quantum computing a potential threat to classical cryptography.
5. **Quantum Search Algorithm (Grover's Algorithm):** Grover's algorithm, a quantum search algorithm, provides significant speedup compared to classical algorithms when searching for a numerical pattern in large datasets.
6. **Deutsch-Jozsa Algorithm:** This quantum algorithm efficiently determines if a mapping between two sets is constant or balanced, showcasing the advantage of quantum superposition.
7. **Promise of Quantum Computing:** Quantum computing holds promise for solving complex problems in optimization, drug design, pattern search, and other fields more efficiently once reliable large-scale devices become available.

#### Mains in Easy Language

The article underscores the importance of not just having quantum hardware but also developing intelligent algorithms to harness the power of quantum computers. Quantum algorithms, implemented through quantum gates, can outshine classical counterparts by taking advantage of superposition in qubits.

Shor's algorithm stands out as a quantum solution for efficient factorization of large numbers, posing a threat to classical cryptography. Grover's quantum search algorithm demonstrates significant speedup in finding numerical patterns compared to classical methods.





The Deutsch-Jozsa algorithm efficiently determines if a mapping is constant or balanced, showcasing the unique advantage of quantum superposition. Quantum computing holds promise for addressing complex problems in optimization, drug design, and pattern search more efficiently once reliable large-scale devices become available.

While quantum algorithms offer potential breakthroughs, researchers emphasize the need for reliable and large-scale quantum devices. The interdisciplinary nature of quantum algorithm research involves computer science, mathematics, and physics, presenting ample opportunities for significant contributions in this evolving field.

### The Explosion of Digital Uncertainty by M.K.Narayanan- The Hindu Editorial

Science and Tech New tech

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Government Interest:** India's government is actively exploring opportunities in AI.
2. **Industry Transformation:** AI advancements are reshaping skill requirements and posing new threats in India's IT sector.
3. **Digital Uncertainty:** Rapid digital growth has introduced unforeseen, complex threats.
4. **Cognitive Warfare:** Non-state actors are using advanced tech to destabilize institutions and manipulate human cognition.
5. **Economic Vulnerability:** Companies' heavy investment in intangibles makes them susceptible to AI risks.
6. **Truth Decay:** AI-driven misinformation is becoming a significant concern for governments.
7. **Emergence of AGI:** The rise of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) threatens massive socio-economic disruptions.
8. **Digital Colonialism:** AGI could lead to concentrated power centers, resembling historical colonial dynamics.
9. **Technological Crossroads:** Ethical implications of advanced AGI warrant a global debate and collaboration.
10. **Hamas-Israel Case Study:** Over-reliance on AI might have caused strategic lapses in the 2023 Hamas-Israel conflict.

#### For Mains in Easy Language

The Indian government is really interested in the latest advancements in AI. Big tech companies in India believe that this new wave of AI will change the types of jobs people do and might also bring new challenges.

With all this tech progress, things are moving very fast, and that can be confusing. The digital world can be thought of as a huge layered cake. We've got machines that are smart on one layer, human-made software in another, and the actual computer parts at the bottom. Everything's connected, but it's complex, and most people don't realize the risks.

There's something called "cognitive warfare" which is like using tech tricks to mess with people's minds. This is especially true for big organizations and governments. Because of this, there might be trust issues, leaks of secret info, and cases of people being manipulated without realizing it.

Many companies, especially in richer countries, are investing more in things you can't touch (like a brand's value) than in actual tangible stuff (like buildings). This makes them potential targets for AI-related risks. With all this happening, our future might seem more challenging than exciting.

Governments are putting in a lot of effort to fix the spread of wrong or fake information. But AI is making it hard to tell what's real and what's not. This leads to a situation where the truth is hard to find, which some are calling "truth decay."

There's a new version of AI on the horizon called AGI. This is like a computer program that's as smart or maybe even smarter than humans. It can think, decide, and maybe even have feelings. This can change how jobs look and how the world operates.

AGI could cause bigger gaps between rich and poor people and between powerful and less powerful countries. Some cities might even face chaos. There might also be a lot of fake news and voices that sound real but aren't. Just like the big industries took over during the Industrial Revolution years ago, AGI might become the new power player, leading to some places or companies having most of the power.





Right now, we're at a turning point in deciding how much we let this new tech grow and influence our lives. AGI is beginning to think a bit like us, and this is just the start. It's like a new type of competition, but with technology instead of weapons. Lastly, there's an example of a recent conflict between Hamas and Israel. Some think Israel made mistakes because they trusted AI too much, and Hamas tricked it. This shows that relying too much on AI can have big consequences.

### **The BRI at 10, some hits, many misses-The Hindu editorial**

International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways**

- 1. BRI's Ambitious Goals:** China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to boost its global influence, transitioning from a regional power to a global player. It seeks to create alternative trade routes and reduce dependence on key global trade chokepoints.
- 2. Economic Initiatives and Branding:** China established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to challenge global lending institutions. President Xi Jinping leverages the BRI to enhance his global statesman image and China's influence.
- 3. Domestic and Global Significance:** The BRI is integrated into China's domestic policies, featuring prominently in Five-Year Plans. Over 200 cooperation agreements have been signed with more than 150 nations, leading to substantial investments.
- 4. Bridging Global Infrastructure Gaps:** The BRI focuses on bridging global infrastructure deficits. Tackling challenges like ecological damage, displacement, compensation disputes, and labor unrest are part of this endeavor.
- 5. Global Responses and Alternatives:** In response to the BRI, global alternatives like the United States-Japan infrastructure investment initiatives and the 'Build Back Better World' (B3W) have emerged. India introduces its India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) as a trade route alternative.
- 6. Uncertain Future:** As the BRI reaches its first decade, China grapples with economic challenges, raising uncertainty about the initiative's future trajectory. Economic concerns related to debt and unemployment add to this uncertainty.

#### **Mains easy language**

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a massive global project spearheaded by China and led by President Xi Jinping. In simple terms, it's like China's way of becoming a superpower by connecting with and helping other countries. The BRI aims to create new trade routes and infrastructure to make China a key player in the world.

China is putting a lot of money into this plan. They even started a new bank called the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to help fund it. President Xi wants to make deals with other countries using their own money, not the U.S. dollar. This helps China build its own economic order.

But not everything is smooth sailing. There are problems. The BRI has caused some environmental damage, people have been displaced from their homes, and there are disputes over money. For example, in Pakistan, a report found that China made most of the money from a port, while Pakistan didn't get as much.

Other countries are also coming up with their own plans to counter the BRI. The United States, Japan, and India have their own ideas to compete with China. They want to invest in infrastructure, health, and technology in other countries.





In the end, the BRI's future is a bit uncertain. China is facing problems with debt and unemployment. So, it remains to be seen how this huge project will continue in the future.

### What caused largest Marsquake? Why answer surprised scientists- Indian Express Explained

Science and Technology

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Record Marsquake:** In May 2022, NASA's InSight lander detected the largest-ever marsquake on Mars, with a magnitude of 4.7, making it noteworthy for our planetary neighbor.
2. **Initial Suspicions:** Scientists initially believed a meteorite impact might have caused the marsquake, as Mars lacks Earth's plate tectonics, which generate earthquakes.
3. **Surprising Discovery:** The investigation didn't reveal an impact crater, leading scientists to conclude that the marsquake resulted from tectonic activity within Mars.
4. **Deepened Understanding:** This discovery enhances the understanding of Martian seismic activity and tectonic processes, despite the absence of traditional plate tectonics.
5. **Internal Martian Activity:** While Mars doesn't have active plate tectonics, it still experiences internal motion due to factors like cooling and shrinking, which can lead to quakes.
6. **Marsquake Origins:** The 4.7 magnitude marsquake was centered in the Al-Qahira Vallis region in the Martian southern hemisphere, highlighting that faults can trigger quakes on Mars without conventional plate movements.

#### Mains in Easy Language

In May 2022, NASA's InSight lander recorded the largest marsquake ever detected on Mars, with a magnitude of 4.7. While scientists initially suspected that a meteorite impact might have caused the quake, a surprising discovery followed. Despite Mars lacking the Earth's geological process of plate tectonics, which generates earthquakes, the investigation revealed that this marsquake was the result of tectonic activity within Mars.

The absence of an impact crater challenged the initial hypothesis, leading researchers to conclude that faults in Mars's crust were responsible for the seismic event. This revelation represents a significant step forward in understanding Martian seismic activity and the planet's tectonic processes.

Although Mars lacks active plate tectonics, the planet is not entirely geologically inert. It continues to experience internal motion due to factors such as cooling and shrinking. This internal activity can lead to the formation of faults that trigger quakes, even in the absence of traditional plate movements.

This research sheds light on the dynamic nature of Mars and highlights the planet's ability to host significant seismic events, deepening our understanding of its geological processes.

### Revolution and its Sutradhar- Indian Express Ideas

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Dr. Norman Borlaug's Arrival in India:** In 1963, American agronomist Norman Borlaug was invited to India by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to study wheat crops in the grain-filling stage before harvesting.
2. **Introduction of Semi-Dwarf Wheat Varieties:** Borlaug introduced four semi-dwarf wheat varieties to India, which showed promise in multi-location trials. Dr. Swaminathan played a crucial role in facilitating their adoption.



| Clear your doubts now.



3. **National Demonstrations:** In 1964, Swaminathan proposed "national demonstrations" to plant Borlaug's wheat varieties in farmers' fields, demonstrating their high yields. Despite initial objections, the program was approved.
4. **Impact of the Varieties:** The imported seeds of the Mexican wheat varieties led to a significant increase in wheat production, helping India achieve self-sufficiency in food production.
5. **Development of Indian Varieties:** Indian scientists like D.S. Athwal and S.P. Kohli developed their wheat varieties based on Borlaug's work, leading to further improvements in crop quality and yield.
6. **Swaminathan's Strategic Role:** Dr. Swaminathan was the master strategist behind India's Green Revolution. His ability to connect with scientists, officials, and ministers was instrumental in the success of the program.
7. **Comparison with Verghese Kurien:** The article draws a parallel between Dr. Swaminathan's role in the Green Revolution and Verghese Kurien's role in the White Revolution. Both were crucial architects of transformative changes in agriculture and dairy, respectively.
8. **Concerns about Sustainability:** Swaminathan voiced concerns about the potential risks of mono-cropping and overuse of underground water resources, highlighting the importance of sustainability in agriculture.
9. **Championing Modern Agricultural Technologies:** The article suggests that a modern-day Swaminathan would focus on agricultural technologies that improve nutrient and water use efficiency and address the challenges of climate change. This might include advocating for agricultural biotechnology and gene editing.
10. **Lack of Agricultural Champions:** The article laments the absence of champions like Swaminathan and Kurien in today's Indian agriculture. Such figures could provide strategic vision and leadership to the sector.
11. **Tribute to Swaminathan:** The article reflects on Dr. Swaminathan's legacy and the reverence he held among farmers, and it notes that he was seen as a "Kisanan Da Masiha" (messiah of the farmers).

### Mains in Easy Language

The article delves into the pivotal role played by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan in the Green Revolution, a transformative period in Indian agriculture during the 1960s and 1970s. India faced a severe food shortage at the time, and Dr. Swaminathan sought assistance from American agronomist Norman Borlaug. Borlaug introduced new wheat varieties that could produce more grain, thus increasing food production.

Dr. Swaminathan's influence was instrumental in implementing Borlaug's innovative wheat strains. He acted as a conductor, harmonizing the efforts of scientists, government officials, and farmers. Dr. Swaminathan's strategic vision and his ability to connect with key decision-makers were key to the success of the Green Revolution.

The impact was significant: India achieved self-sufficiency in food production, with a substantial increase in wheat yields. The Green Revolution, driven by new, high-yielding crop varieties and modern farming techniques, was a turning point in Indian agriculture. The article also draws a parallel between Dr. Swaminathan and Verghese Kurien, who led the White Revolution in dairy farming. Both were visionary leaders who transformed their respective sectors.

The article concludes by highlighting the need for contemporary leaders in Indian agriculture who possess the strategic foresight to address new challenges, including sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation. Dr. Swaminathan's legacy remains strong, as he is remembered as a hero by farmers and a driving force behind India's agricultural transformation.

### [Vizhinjam Port: latest row over mega project- Indian Express Explained](#)

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Vizhinjam International Seaport Project:** Kerala is witnessing a fresh debate regarding the under-construction Vizhinjam international seaport, India's first deep-water transshipment port.





2. **Milestone with Crane Arrival:** The recent arrival of a ship-to-shore crane, brought by a heavy load carrier vessel, is considered a milestone in making the long-delayed project operation-ready. It has led to a credit war between the ruling CP (M) and the Opposition Congress.
3. **Criticism:** Senior BJP leader V Muraleedharan criticized the reception for the crane as a "publicity stunt" and referred to it as a "ship with construction material."
4. **Details of the Project:** Vizhinjam, located near Thiruvananthapuram, is India's first international deep-water transshipment port with a natural depth of over 18 meters. The Rs 7,600-crore project is executed by Adani Ports and SEZ Private Limited.
5. **Delayed Execution:** Attempts to execute the project were made by successive regimes, with the Adani Group finally inking a deal in 2015. Delays have occurred due to various factors, including construction issues and natural disasters like the 2017 Ockhi cyclone.
6. **Importance of Transshipment Port:** India currently lacks a land-side mega-port to handle ultra-large container ships, resulting in around 75% of transshipment cargo being handled at ports outside India. Developing such a port can lead to multiple benefits, including forex savings, foreign direct investment, logistics infrastructure development, job creation, and increased revenue.

### **Mains in easy language:**

The Vizhinjam International Seaport Project in Kerala is the center of a fresh debate as it nears completion. The recent arrival of a ship-to-shore crane, considered a significant milestone for the much-delayed project, led to a political credit war between the ruling CP (M) and the Opposition Congress. The BJP, on the other hand, criticized the grand reception for the crane as a mere publicity stunt.

Vizhinjam is India's first deep-water transshipment port, boasting a natural depth of over 18 meters, making it capable of accommodating large vessels and mother ships. The project, executed by Adani Ports and SEZ Private Limited, has faced multiple delays, primarily due to construction challenges and natural disasters like the 2017 Ockhi cyclone.

The importance of this transshipment port lies in India's need for a land-side mega-port to handle ultra-large container ships. Currently, a significant portion of India's transshipment cargo is handled at foreign ports like Colombo, Singapore, and Klang. Developing Vizhinjam into a transshipment hub can lead to substantial benefits, including forex savings, foreign direct investment, logistics infrastructure development, job creation, and increased revenue for the region.

**20th October 2023**

### **AN EXPENDITURE CAP - Indian Express Editorial**

Polity

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Democracy and Public Funds:** In democracies, political parties decide how to spend public money, often without referendums, leading to debates about the allocation of resources.
2. **Controversial Expenditure:** Public spending is contentious, with a focus on maximizing economic value, but often resources are directed toward non-development expenditure.
3. **Redistribution and Progressive Taxation:** Governments aim to foster equality through redistribution, using progressive tax structures, but the concept remains open to interpretation.
4. **Preference for "Freebies":** Voters often prefer projects that create jobs and provide direct benefits, such as subsidized meals, free electricity, and free transport.



| Clear your doubts now.



**5. State vs. Center Dynamics:** States tend to offer more freebies, and there are arguments that such programs can stimulate production in various industries.

**6. Loan Waivers and Government Intervention:** The debate surrounds the fairness of government-supported loan waivers for vulnerable sections compared to the treatment of bad loans in industries.

**7. Challenges of Limited Resources:** Governments must decide how to allocate their limited resources, often guided by election promises, but excessive promises can lead to fiscal challenges.

**8. The Need for Allocation Norms:** Establishing caps on public spending and ensuring parity across different government levels may be a solution to the allocation dilemma.

### **Mains in Easy language**

In a democratic system, political parties are tasked with deciding how to allocate public funds, a process that often lacks direct public referendums. This leads to persistent debates about the allocation of resources, particularly in ways that maximize economic value while catering to social welfare programs and what are often termed "freebies." These initiatives, including subsidized meals, free electricity, and complimentary transportation, directly benefit the less privileged sections of society, and their allocation raises questions about fair redistribution. While some advocate for a progressive taxation system aiming to foster equality by taking from the wealthier and providing for the poorer, interpretations of redistribution vary widely.

The common citizen often prefers projects that create jobs and offer immediate benefits, particularly given that a majority of the population falls within lower income brackets. Additionally, there's an ongoing discussion about how governments should intervene in economic matters, such as loan waivers. While some argue that government-backed loan waivers for vulnerable sections are fairer than writing off bad loans in the industrial sector, the debate persists. Governments also face the challenge of allocating their limited resources effectively, especially as they often make ambitious promises during elections, which can lead to fiscal constraints. To address these challenges, there is a growing call for the establishment of allocation norms, such as spending caps, to ensure equitable distribution of public resources. These norms could promote fiscal responsibility and consistency across different levels of government, potentially offering a solution to the ongoing allocation dilemma in democracies.

### **Agents of prosperity- Indian Express editorial**

#### **Economy**

##### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Enhancing Farmers' Income:** The government is focused on increasing farmers' income through various strategies, including boosting productivity, reducing costs, improving marketability, diversifying crops, and adopting climate-resilient technologies.
2. **Fragmented Holdings:** Fragmented land holdings in agriculture pose a significant challenge, discouraging investment and economies of scale. Farmer Producers' Organizations (FPOs) have emerged as a solution to this problem.
3. **Role of FPOs:** FPOs are collectives of farmers in a geographical cluster, registered either under the Companies Act or as cooperatives under the Societies Registration Act. They have shown potential in promoting cluster-based farming, enabling technology adoption, and facilitating input management and marketing for farmers.
4. **Government Initiatives:** The government, both at the central and state levels, has taken steps to promote FPOs. Uttar Pradesh has established a dedicated FPO cell to support their formation. A joint effort between the central and state governments aims to create one FPO in each of UP's 826 blocks every year.





5. **FPO Shakti Portal:** The FPO Shakti portal provides a platform for active FPOs in UP, offering grievance redressal and fostering business partnerships. As of July 15, around 1,600 FPOs with a total turnover of Rs 229 crore have registered on the portal.
6. **Financial Support:** FPOs receive financial support through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, offering interest subsidies for credit extended to develop post-harvest infrastructure. Additionally, the UP government provides an extra 3 percent subsidy to FPOs and agriculture entrepreneurs.
7. **Diverse Activities:** FPOs are involved in diverse agricultural activities, including crop diversification, value addition, seed production, and farm mechanization. They also contribute to climate-resilient strategies.
8. **Innovation and Collaborations:** FPOs are becoming engines for innovations, working on initiatives like One District One Product, improving nutrition, and collaborating with companies, ultimately benefiting local farmers and the agriculture sector.

### Mains in Easy Language-

The government is taking multi-pronged steps to enhance farmers' income, focusing on productivity, cost reduction, marketability, crop diversification, and climate-resilient technologies. One major challenge in the agricultural sector is fragmented land holdings, hindering investment and economies of scale. To address this, Farmer Producers' Organizations (FPOs) have gained prominence.

FPOs, collectives of farmers in geographical clusters, help streamline farming operations, enabling technology adoption and marketing, ultimately benefiting farmers.

Both the central and state governments are actively promoting FPOs. Uttar Pradesh has established a dedicated FPO cell to support their formation, aiming to create one FPO in each block annually. The FPO Shakti portal serves as a platform for active FPOs, offering grievance resolution and business partnerships. Financial incentives, such as interest subsidies and additional state subsidies, encourage FPOs to develop post-harvest infrastructure. FPOs are engaged in diverse agricultural activities, from crop diversification to value addition, and they are driving innovation and collaborations. These efforts are already yielding significant results, with FPOs playing a pivotal role in crop diversification, value addition, and improving nutrition, ultimately benefiting farmers and the rural economy.

### Safety test for Gaganyaan- Indian express Explained

#### Science and Technology

##### Key Takeaways:

1. **ISRO's Gaganyaan Project:** The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is actively working on its Gaganyaan project, aimed at launching an Indian astronaut into space, possibly in 2025.
2. **Crew Escape System Test:** ISRO is conducting the Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) to demonstrate the Crew Escape System of the Gaganyaan project. This is the first of two abort missions to ensure the safety of astronauts in emergencies.
3. **Test Details:** The test involves launching a rocket to an altitude of about 17 km, where an abort signal is triggered. This leads to the separation of the Crew Module, which descends using a parachute and splashes down in the Bay of Bengal.
4. **Focus on Safety:** Safety is a paramount concern for the Gaganyaan project. ISRO is developing systems for environmental control, life support, and an integrated vehicle health management system to ensure astronaut safety.
5. **Low-Cost Test Vehicle:** The TV-D1 mission employs a low-cost basic rocket developed by ISRO specifically for testing systems. This approach helps reduce costs, as each GSLV Mk III launch costs significantly more.
6. **ISRO's Schedule:** The Gaganyaan mission is now planned for 2024 or later, emphasizing safety over rushing the project. The schedule includes unmanned missions in 2023, followed by the manned mission in 2024 or early 2025.







7. **ISRO's Progress:** ISRO has completed the human rating of the LVM3 rocket for the Gaganyaan mission. Astronauts from the Indian Air Force have undergone training, and various engine tests have been successfully conducted.

### **Mains in Easy Language:**

ISRO is actively pursuing its ambitious Gaganyaan project, which aims to launch an Indian astronaut into space. As part of this project, ISRO is conducting the Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) to test the Crew Escape System. This is a critical component of ensuring astronaut safety in emergencies. During the test, a rocket will ascend to an altitude of 17 km, and an abort signal will trigger the separation of the Crew Module, which will safely descend into the Bay of Bengal using a parachute.

Safety is a top priority for the Gaganyaan project, and ISRO is developing various systems to ensure the well-being of astronauts. These systems include environmental control, life support, and an integrated vehicle health management system. To reduce costs, ISRO has created a low-cost Test Vehicle specifically for testing purposes, as each GSLV Mk III launch is expensive.

ISRO's schedule for the Gaganyaan mission is focused on achieving success with safety. Unmanned missions are planned for 2023, with the manned mission targeted for 2024 or early 2025. ISRO has made significant progress, including human rating the LVM3 rocket and conducting successful engine tests. The Gaganyaan project represents a significant step forward for India's space program and its aspirations for human spaceflight.

### **Why SLLs also need to be reformed - The Hindu Text and Context**

#### **Polity**

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Recent Criminal Law Bills:** Recent bills addressing criminal laws in India have initiated much-needed reforms. These bills primarily amend the substantive criminal law as codified in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and Indian Evidence Act (IEA).
2. **Special and Local Laws (SLLs):** While the focus has been on amending the IPC and CrPC, the critical offenses and procedures are often encompassed within the Special and Local Laws (SLLs). These laws are largely left out of the reform process.
3. **Relevance of SLLs:** SLLs are significant both in terms of quantity and quality in the Indian criminal justice system. In 2021, nearly 39.9% of all cognizable offenses were registered under SLLs.
4. **SLL Reforms Needed:** There are substantive issues within SLLs, such as vague definitions in laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and applicability concerns, as seen in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012.
5. **Procedural Concerns:** SLLs dilute due process values, like increased powers of search and seizure and the admissibility of confessions recorded by police officers.
6. **Shift from Codification:** The increasing number of SLLs represents a shift from the original project of codification as envisioned in the IPC, which aimed to be a comprehensive collection of criminal laws in one place.
7. **Codification Success:** Despite criticisms of the IPC for retaining outdated morals and colonial roots, the IPC and CrPC have been successful in codifying criminal laws.
8. **Call for Inclusion:** It is essential to include SLLs within the larger structure of the penal code. SLLs that criminalize conduct should find a place as separate chapters in the penal code, while those with different procedures should be integrated into the CrPC.

### **Mains in Easy Language:**





Recent bills addressing criminal laws in India have primarily focused on amending the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). However, these bills often neglect the significant role played by Special and Local Laws (SLLs) in the country's criminal justice system.

SLLs make up a substantial portion of the criminal justice landscape, with almost 39.9% of all cognizable offenses registered in 2021 falling under these laws. These laws cover a wide range of offenses and have been the subject of fundamental debates and discussions regarding the state's power of criminalization and individual rights.

Problems with SLLs include vague definitions, applicability concerns, and the dilution of due process values. Many SLLs grant increased powers to law enforcement and make securing bail a challenging process.

The shift towards an increasing number of SLLs is at odds with the original codification project of the IPC, designed to contain all criminal laws within a single legal digest. The IPC and CrPC have been successful in codifying laws, but SLLs have become more prominent over time.

To address these issues, there is a need to include SLLs within the larger structure of the penal code. SLLs that criminalize conduct should become separate chapters within the penal code, and those with different procedures should be integrated into the CrPC. It's imperative that the ongoing criminal law reform process recognizes and addresses the significant role of SLLs in the Indian legal landscape.

### **An opportunity to recast India's food system- The Hindu Editorial**

#### **Agriculture**

##### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Complex Food System:** India's food system is a complex network that involves consumers, producers (farmers), and middlemen, all interconnected and affecting each other.
2. **Nutrition Challenges:** India faces the double burden of malnutrition, with a significant portion of the population exhibiting nutrient deficiencies, while obesity is also on the rise. Efforts are being made to reduce malnutrition.
3. **Farm Income Challenges:** Farm incomes are often insufficient to support small and marginal farmers. A significant proportion of these farmers rely on non-farm activities, indicating a lack of opportunities and income diversification.
4. **Environmental Vulnerabilities:** Depleting natural resources and changing climate patterns make India's food production highly vulnerable. Soil health, groundwater depletion, and resource exploitation threaten farm incomes.
5. **Three-Pronged Approach:** Addressing these interconnected challenges requires a three-pronged approach involving consumers, producers (farmers), and middlemen.
6. **Consumer Shift:** Consumer demand must be shifted toward healthier and more sustainable diets. Public and private sectors can play a role in influencing consumption patterns.
7. **Support for Farmers:** Farmers need support to transition to remunerative and regenerative agricultural practices. Initiatives like the National Mission on Natural Farming should be expanded. Funding for sustainable agriculture needs to increase.
8. **Inclusive Value Chains:** Farm-to-fork value chains should be more sustainable and inclusive. Corporations and middlemen should prioritize direct procurement from farmers, promoting sustainable produce and fair trade.
9. **Agricultural Transformation:** Shifting the entire food system is a significant challenge, but India has a unique opportunity to set an example for the world if it acts quickly and comprehensively.

##### **Mains in Easy Language:**





The food system in India is a complex web involving consumers, farmers, and middlemen. It plays a vital role in ensuring nutrition security, and to make it sustainable, the challenges of all three segments must be addressed. On the nutrition front, India grapples with both nutrient deficiencies and rising obesity. Efforts are underway to tackle malnutrition.

Farm incomes are a major concern, with many small and marginal farmers supplementing their earnings with non-farm activities. To support farmers, initiatives like the National Mission on Natural Farming should be expanded, with a shift from input subsidies to direct cash support.

Environmental vulnerabilities pose a significant threat to Indian agriculture. Soil health degradation, groundwater depletion, and resource exploitation impact farm incomes. To address these challenges, a three-pronged approach is needed.

Consumers need to shift towards healthier diets, driven by both the public and private sectors. The public sector, through various touchpoints, can improve what people consume. Additionally, farmers need support to transition to sustainable practices, and the agricultural sector must move towards more inclusive and sustainable value chains.

Shifting the entire food system is a challenging endeavor, but India has an opportunity to lead by example if it acts quickly and comprehensively. It's essential to recognize the interconnectedness of nutrition, livelihood, and environmental security in building a truly sustainable food system.

### The shape of climate justice in a warming India-The Hindu Editorial

Environment

#### Key Takeaways

- 1. G-20 Climate Agreements:** The G-20 summit agreed to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency improvement by 2030 but couldn't reach a consensus on phasing out fossil fuels.
- 2. Principles of Climate Justice:** Climate justice calls for emitters to bear social and environmental costs while compensating those harmed by climate change, shifting responsibility to richer nations and classes.
- 3. India's Foreign Policy Perspective:** India's climate stance prioritizes economic growth over mitigation, shaped by foreign policy, but overlooks climate justice and domestic inequality issues.
- 4. Inequality and Climate Change:** Climate change disproportionately impacts the poor, exacerbating agrarian crises and linking environmental and socio-economic inequalities, particularly in India.
- 5. India's Energy Transition:** India's ambitious energy transition goals need careful implementation to avoid negatively affecting the poor and worsening existing disparities.
- 6. Regional Inequalities and Sub-national Governments:** India's regional energy disparities require tailored strategies, including funds for coal-dependent states, and sub-national governments play a vital role in addressing climate concerns.

#### Mains easy language

In the recent G-20 summit held in Delhi, the world's major economies agreed to make big changes in how we produce and use energy. They plan to triple the use of clean, renewable energy like wind and solar power by 2030. They also want to double the rate at which we make our energy use more efficient. This is a big step in fighting climate change. However, they couldn't agree on one big issue: how quickly to stop using dirty fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas.





A critical idea discussed is "climate justice." This means making those who cause pollution pay for the damage it does, and compensating those who are harmed by it, especially the poor. In the case of India, which historically has had lower emissions compared to richer countries, the focus has been on economic growth, not climate change. This approach has often left behind the concerns of climate justice within India, especially the impact on poor and marginalized communities.

Climate change has a strong connection to inequality, and it's vital to address both issues together for a fair and sustainable future. India's goal to shift towards cleaner energy sources is commendable, but it must be done carefully to avoid hurting the poor and worsening existing inequalities. The transition should protect jobs and offer opportunities while recognizing the regional differences in the country. Sub-national governments also play a significant role in addressing climate concerns, even if their priorities don't always align with the central government's. This means cooperation and alignment in policy are crucial to tackle climate change and its associated inequalities effectively.

### Why are earthquakes frequent in Afghanistan? - The Hindu Text and Context

#### **-Environment**

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1. Frequent Earthquakes in Afghanistan:** Afghanistan faces frequent earthquakes, with recent incidents causing significant harm. The country has a history of destructive quakes, with varying death toll figures reported.
- 2. Earthquake Occurrence and Anatomy:** Earthquakes happen when Earth's lithosphere blocks suddenly shift, releasing seismic energy. The focus (hypocentre) initiates the quake, and the epicentre is directly above it on the Earth's surface. Most quakes occur at plate boundaries with faults.
- 3. Geological Complexity and Tectonic Stress:** Afghanistan's vulnerability to earthquakes is due to its location at the convergence of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. The collision and convergence fold and fault Earth's crust, creating tectonic stress. Active fault systems like Chaman Fault and Main Pamir Thrust trigger many quakes.
- 4. Uplift of the Himalayas and Fault Systems:** The northward movement of the Indian Plate toward the Eurasian Plate contributes to geological complexity and seismic activity. This motion causes compression, lifting the Himalayas and transmitting tectonic stress across the region, deforming the crust and generating faults and earthquakes.
- 5. Earthquake Preparedness and Safety:** Given Afghanistan's susceptibility to earthquakes, the region must prioritize preparedness and safety. This includes effective disaster management, public education, and infrastructure improvements to reduce the impact of future quakes.

#### **Mains easy language**

Afghanistan finds itself at the mercy of frequent earthquakes. These seismic events have recently caused a lot of damage and even loss of life. We've seen this happen quite a few times in the past, with government authorities often providing different figures on the number of casualties, making it all the more confusing and tragic.

So, why do these earthquakes keep happening? Well, let's break it down. Earthquakes occur when chunks of the Earth's surface suddenly shift. This shift releases a huge amount of energy, which we feel as shaking and see as destruction. The starting point of this shift is called the 'focus,' and the spot directly above it on the Earth's surface is the 'epicenter.' Most quakes happen at places





where tectonic plates, which are like big pieces of the Earth's crust, meet. These meeting points usually have faults or fractures, and that's where the ground can shake.

Now, Afghanistan's trouble lies in its geography. It's positioned right where two big tectonic plates, the Indian and Eurasian plates, collide. This collision causes the Earth's crust to fold and create all sorts of tension. That tension can eventually get released as an earthquake. Plus, there are active fault systems in Afghanistan, like the **Chaman Fault and Main Pamir Thrust**, that keep adding to the earthquake risk.

To make it even clearer, the Indian Plate moving northward towards the Eurasian Plate results in a lot of geological complexity and stress. This stress deforms the Earth's crust, making it prone to faults and fractures that can trigger earthquakes.

Considering all this, it's crucial for Afghanistan to focus on earthquake preparedness and safety measures. That means having good plans for dealing with earthquakes, educating the public, and making sure buildings and infrastructure can withstand the shaking to reduce the impact of future quakes.

**21st October 2023**

### **Middle East, middle ground- Indian Express Editorial**

#### **International Relations**

##### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **India's Evolving Middle East Strategy:** India is changing its approach to the Middle East and its relations with countries in the region.
2. **Growing Ties with Arab Moderates and Israel:** India is strengthening its partnerships with Arab moderate nations and Israel. They share common interests, such as countering religious extremism and boosting economic development.
3. **Challenges Arising from Recent Conflict:** The recent violence in Southern Israel and Gaza poses a challenge to India's newfound partnerships in the Middle East.
4. **Promoting Moderation in Israel:** India is urging Israel to exercise caution and not rush into a major military operation in Gaza. A prolonged conflict could lead to international isolation for Israel and empower its adversaries.
5. **Supporting the Palestinian Authority:** India recognizes the need to support the Palestinian Authority in its state-building efforts. This support is aimed at countering the influence of religious extremists like Hamas.
6. **Acknowledging Regional Ambitions of Iran and Turkey:** India must consider the regional ambitions of Iran and Turkey. Iran supports groups like Hamas and Hezbollah, while Turkey backs the Muslim Brotherhood. India needs to engage with these countries while being aware of their roles in the Middle East.
7. **Importance of a Coalition of Moderate States:** India's long-term interests in the Middle East depend on strengthening moderate states in the region, fostering reconciliation between different parties, and building a coalition of nations with moderate approaches.

#### **Mains in Easy Language**

The article delves into India's evolving foreign policy in the Middle East and the challenges it faces in maintaining and growing its partnerships in the region. For many years, India's stance was to favor secular, modern, and non-religious forces in the Middle East, steering clear of religious extremism and conservative ideologies. However, the Middle East's ever-changing dynamics have challenged India's preferences.





In recent times, India has been cultivating stronger ties with Arab moderates and Israel. These relationships are built on shared interests, including the joint effort to combat religious extremism and promote economic development. This strategic realignment allows India to advance its own economic modernization and enhance its security footprint in the Middle East.

Nonetheless, the recent flare-up of conflict in Southern Israel and Gaza presents a complex test for India. To manage this, three critical imperatives emerge.

1. India advises Israel to exercise restraint and consider the consequences of military actions in Gaza carefully.
2. It advocates for support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to counter extremist elements like Hamas and address the PA's quest for statehood.
3. India must recognize and manage Iran and Turkey's regional aspirations.

The ultimate goal for India is to maintain regional peace and stability, not only to secure its interests but also to foster economic growth and security partnerships. A protracted conflict in Gaza could jeopardize India's standing and relationships in the region. To ensure its long-term strategy, India must strengthen moderation, encourage reconciliation, and forge a coalition of moderate states in the Middle East.

In summary, India is recalibrating its Middle East policy, emphasizing partnerships with moderate actors and promoting regional stability, even as the complex and ever-changing geopolitical landscape presents new challenges.

### **A Good Rollback- Indian Express Editorial**

#### **Polity**

##### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Reversal of Laptop Import Licensing Policy:** The central government's decision to impose licensing requirements on laptop imports was met with criticism and international concerns.
2. **Concerns of Excessive Government Control:** The policy raised fears of reverting to an era marked by extensive government control, import quotas, and bureaucratic discretion.
3. **Introduction of Import Management System:** In response to criticisms, the government has introduced an import management system for IT hardware, reducing burdens on importers and emphasizing the monitoring of trusted sources.
4. **International Concerns Prompt Reconsideration:** Concerns raised by countries like the US, China, South Korea, and Taiwan have led the government to rethink its approach.
5. **Shift Towards a Business-Friendly Approach:** The change in policy is seen as a positive step that reduces bureaucratic complexities and promotes a manufacturing ecosystem through greater openness and business freedom.

##### **Mains in Easy Language**

The article discusses the central government's policy shift regarding licensing requirements on laptop imports, a decision that had initially raised concerns and backlash. The move was perceived as a regression to a bygone era characterized by extensive government control, which in turn sparked worries of import quotas and arbitrary actions.

In response to the criticisms and international concerns, the government has opted for a more flexible approach by introducing an import management system for IT hardware. Under this system, importers are required to register and provide data related to their imports and the country of origin, simplifying the process while enhancing the monitoring of trusted sources. However, companies on the "denied entity list" will not receive authorization for imports.

This policy shift is welcomed as it reduces the bureaucratic burden on importers and represents a move away from heavy-handed licensing requirements. It is seen as a positive step toward fostering a manufacturing ecosystem by creating an environment that promotes greater openness and freedom for businesses to operate.





In conclusion, the government's decision to revisit its policy on laptop imports reflects a more pragmatic and business-friendly approach, emphasizing the importance of an environment that supports manufacturing and allows companies the freedom to operate.

### Reaching Out to Include- Indian Express Editorial

#### Polity

##### Key Takeaways:

1. **Advocacy for Inclusive Media:** Advocates with disabilities are actively championing the cause of media accessibility in the Indian entertainment industry, emphasizing the importance of making content inclusive.
2. **Expansive Audience Impact:** The article underscores the broader impact of media accessibility features, asserting that they offer benefits to a wide-ranging audience, not limited to those with hearing or sight impairments.
3. **Holistic Systems Approach:** A systems approach is proposed, advocating for the seamless integration of accessibility features into content creation, allowing for greater accessibility with minimal added cost.
4. **Cost-Effective Implementation:** The integration of accessibility features as separate files in digital film packages is presented as a cost-effective and practical solution to ensure media accessibility.
5. **Crucial Accessibility Features:** Disability rights groups are pushing for the adoption of four key accessibility features in content creation and distribution, making it easier for those with disabilities to access media.
6. **Industry-Wide Compliance:** By mandating the inclusion of accessibility features, the entertainment industry is encouraged to embrace media accessibility as a new standard, benefiting a broader section of the population.
7. **Universal Benefits:** Media accessibility has the potential to positively impact the lives of all 1.4 billion Indians, with over 25% of people over 60 years affected by disabling hearing loss, as highlighted by the World Health Organization.

#### Mains in Easy Language

The article highlights the efforts of advocates with disabilities to promote media accessibility within the Indian entertainment industry. **Sarah Sunny** made history by becoming the first deaf advocate to **use Indian Sign Language (ISL) in the Supreme Court**, while **Rahul Bajaj, a blind advocate, has been championing media accessibility** in cinema halls.

The entertainment industry has been cautious about embracing media accessibility due to concerns that it caters only to a minority of hearing and visually impaired viewers, potentially detracting from the experience of the majority. However, the article argues that media accessibility features can benefit a broad audience, including those with normal hearing and sight.

A systems approach is proposed to integrate media accessibility into content creation, where accessibility features become integral parts of content, easily turned on or off by any stakeholder at minimal cost. This approach is deemed cost-effective and manageable, with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's (MIB) Accessibility Standards and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act serving as oversight.

The article suggests that requiring key accessibility features as separate files in digital film packages can nudge the entire entertainment system to adopt media accessibility as the new norm. These features include **Same Language Subtitles (SLS), Audio-Description (AD), translated English captions/subtitles, and ISL video interpretation**. This holistic approach makes media accessibility a default and choice in content distribution and consumption scenarios.

The potential beneficiaries of media accessibility extend beyond the disabled community to include the entire Indian population, with over 25% of those over 60 years affected by disabling hearing loss, as per the World Health Organization.

### The green finance challenge- Indian Express Editorial

#### Environment



| Clear your doubts now.



### Key Takeaways:

1. **Paris Pact for People and the Planet:** Over 100 countries and global private sector entities, including India, affirmed the Paris Pact with the goal of fighting poverty and protecting the planet. It was co-chaired by India and represented in the G20 Leaders' Declaration at the Delhi Summit.
  2. **Shift from Billions to Trillions:** To address poverty reduction, climate change, and biodiversity protection, there is a need for a significant shift from billions to trillions in global investments, with a focus on private sector funding.
  3. **Review of Vertical Climate Funds:** A review of global vertical climate funds is proposed to optimize resource utilization and enhance collaboration among stakeholders.
  4. **Financial Regulation Review:** It's suggested to review post-2008 financial regulations to make them more supportive of mobilizing OECD savings toward non-OECD countries and sustainable projects.
  5. **Credit Rating Agencies:** Reforming multilateral development banks (MDBs) should include credit-rating agencies to avoid penalizing MDBs and recognize the effectiveness of innovative blended finance schemes.
  6. **Green Finance Framework:** The green finance framework aims to align the financial sector with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, fostering trust between developed and developing countries and encouraging private finance in low-carbon and resilient projects.
  7. **Debt Vulnerabilities:** Debt vulnerabilities in developing countries need to be addressed, and major creditor countries should fulfill their responsibilities to prevent debt traps and provide debt restructuring solutions.
- **India's Crucial Role:** India plays a pivotal role in advancing global financial system efficiency and unity, given its economic size and unique capacity to build bridges within the international community.

### Mains in Easy Language

The article discusses the Paris Pact for People and the Planet, which emerged from a global gathering in Paris with the goal of reconciling efforts to combat poverty and protect the environment. India's significant role in co-chairing the summit's steering committee and its representation by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman underlines the Indo-French partnership in addressing the world's challenges without the constraints of an artificial North/South divide.

The need for a shift from investments in billions to trillions to address poverty reduction, climate change, and biodiversity protection is stressed. While public sector financing, especially climate finance commitments, is expected to be met, private sector involvement is considered crucial for achieving sustainable development.

The article suggests several measures, including a review of global climate funds, simplification of post-2008 financial regulations, the involvement of credit-rating agencies in reforming multilateral development banks, and the development of a "green finance" framework. The green finance framework seeks to align the financial sector with the Paris Agreement's objectives, harnessing private finance for low-carbon and resilient pathways globally.

Debt vulnerabilities in developing countries are highlighted, and the article calls on major creditor nations to address debt sustainability issues. India's role in these endeavors is underscored, emphasizing its capacity to build bridges and promote cohesion within the international community.

### Questions in Parliament- Indian Express Explained

#### Polity

##### Key Takeaways:

1. **Ethics Committee Hearing:** The Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha is scheduled to hear oral evidence from BJP MP Nishikant Dubey regarding his allegation that TMC MP Mahua Moitra accepted bribes to ask questions targeting the Adani Group.







2. **Parliament Questioning Process:** MPs can ask questions during the Question Hour in Parliament, holding Ministers accountable for their ministries' performance.
3. **Question Submission:** MPs must provide a notice addressed to the Secretary General of the House, indicating their intention to ask a question. The notice typically requires at least 15 days.
4. **Number of Questions:** An MP can submit up to five notices of questions, both for oral and written answers, for a single day. Any excess notices are considered for subsequent days in the session.
5. **Submission Methods:** MPs can submit questions through the online 'Member's Portal' using their credentials or by using printed forms available at the Parliamentary Notice Office.
6. **Admissibility Rules:** Several rules govern the admissibility of questions, such as word limits, avoidance of arguments, defamatory statements, and prohibition from discussing subjects under judicial consideration.
7. **Question Types:** There are four types of questions, including starred (answered orally by the Minister), unstarred (answered in writing), short-notice questions (pertaining to urgent matters), and questions addressed to private Members.
8. **Importance of Questions:** Asking questions is an inherent and essential parliamentary right, allowing MPs to exercise legislative control over executive actions and aiding the government in assessing public reactions to its policies and administration.

#### **Mains in Easy language:**

The article highlights the process of raising questions by Members of Parliament (MPs) during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha. MPs play a crucial role in holding Ministers accountable for the functioning of their ministries, with the questioning procedure governed by specific rules and directions.

To ask a question, an MP must submit a notice indicating their intention, with a notice period of at least 15 days. There are four types of questions, including starred, unstarred, short-notice questions, and questions directed to private Members. Starred questions receive oral responses from the concerned Minister, while unstarred questions receive written replies. Short-notice questions, relating to urgent public matters, are also addressed orally, followed by supplementary questions.

Admissibility rules ensure that questions adhere to specific criteria, such as word limits and the avoidance of contentious matters under judicial consideration. Asking questions is considered an essential parliamentary right that enables MPs to exercise legislative control over executive actions, and it assists the government in gauging public sentiment about its policies and governance.

### **Astronomers Detect 8bn-yr-old 'Fast Radio Burst':What is it?- Indian Express Explained**

#### **Science and Technology Space**

##### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Astronomical Discovery:** Astronomers have observed an intense flash of radio waves, known as a fast radio burst (FRB), originating from a merger of galaxies dating back approximately 8 billion years. This marks the oldest-known occurrence of an FRB.
2. **Energy Release:** The detected FRB released an amount of energy equivalent to what the Sun emits in three decades, despite its incredibly brief duration, less than a millisecond.
3. **Detection Equipment:** The FRB was discovered using the Australian SKA Pathfinder, a radio telescope located in Western Australia, and its location was precisely identified using the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile.
4. **Nature of FRBs:** FRBs are characterized as pulses of radio-frequency electromagnetic radiation with extremely short durations. They surpass most other sources of radio waves in the universe. Radio waves have the longest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum.





5. **Magnetars as Probable Source:** The most likely source of FRBs is believed to be hypermagnetized neutron stars known as magnetars. These stars, despite being the mass of the Sun, are only the size of a small city. Magnetars are considered one of the most extreme objects in the universe, capable of producing such intense bursts.
6. **Unique Characteristics of FRBs:** FRBs are distinguished by their energy release exclusively in the form of radio waves, with no other signals observed in other bands like optical light or X-rays. They are incredibly short-lived events and more common than initially thought, with a potential daily occurrence of over 100,000 FRBs across the universe.

#### **Mains in Easy Language:**

Astronomers have made a groundbreaking discovery by detecting an FRB originating from a galaxy merger that dates back approximately 8 billion years, making it the oldest-known instance of this cosmic phenomenon. The FRB released an astonishing amount of energy, equivalent to several decades' worth of solar output, despite its extraordinarily short duration.

This discovery was made possible through advanced radio telescopes, highlighting the importance of cutting-edge technology in exploring the cosmos. FRBs, characterized by their brief yet powerful radio wave emissions, represent a unique and enigmatic astronomical phenomenon.

The probable source of FRBs is believed to be magnetars, hypermagnetized neutron stars that are considered some of the most extreme objects in the universe. While there are more energetic events in the cosmos, what sets FRBs apart is their exclusive release of energy in the form of radio waves, with no observable signals in other bands of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The detection of an 8-billion-year-old FRB also emphasizes the ability of astronomers to observe objects and events from distant cosmic eras, providing insights into the universe's evolution. Additionally, the prevalence of FRBs across the universe suggests that they are more common than previously thought, although fewer have been detected due to their unique characteristics.

#### **Frosty ties-The Hindu Editorial**

International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Diplomatic Strain:** India's decision to significantly reduce the number of Canadian diplomats has led to a deepening strain in diplomatic relations between the two nations.
2. **Visa Services Disrupted:** In response to the escalating tensions, India suspended visas for Canadians, while Canada, facing staffing shortages, ceased in-person visa services. This disruption has created inconveniences for travelers and businesspersons.
3. **Legal Dispute:** A legal dispute has emerged, primarily centered around India's downsizing demand, with conflicting interpretations of its compliance with the Vienna Convention.
4. **Failed Diplomacy:** Prior diplomatic efforts, including high-level meetings and mediation attempts, have failed to ease the ongoing crisis and reconcile the differences.
5. **Hope for Resolution:** While diplomatic channels have been exhausted, there remains an underlying sense of optimism that a solution may be reached through careful consideration and negotiation.
6. **Impact on Travelers and Business:** As the diplomatic standoff persists, individuals ranging from tourists to business travelers from both India and Canada are likely to continue facing disruptions and challenges in their plans and operations.

#### **Mains easy language**

In recent times, India and Canada have found themselves in a diplomatic tiff, and it's not looking good. India has decided to significantly cut down the number of Canadian diplomats stationed within its borders. This move has seriously strained the relations between the two countries.



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One of the immediate repercussions of this diplomatic spat has been the disruption of visa services. India suspended visas for Canadians, and in response, Canada had to halt in-person visa services because they were short-staffed. This has caused frustration and inconvenience for travellers, especially students, tourists, and businesspeople.

A legal dispute has also reared its head. It revolves around India's demand for downsizing the Canadian diplomatic mission. The question at the heart of this dispute is whether this demand violates the Vienna Convention, an international agreement that governs diplomatic relations between countries.

Numerous attempts have been made to defuse the situation through diplomatic talks and negotiations, including meetings between top leaders and mediation by international allies. Sadly, all these efforts have fallen flat, and tensions remain high.

Despite the current deadlock, there's a glimmer of hope that a solution can be reached through further discussions and contemplation. In the meantime, everyday people, like travellers and businesspersons from both India and Canada, will continue to bear the brunt of the strained diplomatic relations, facing difficulties in their plans and operations.

### **Not just a case about improving investigation -The Hindu Editorial**

Polity

Key Takeaways

1. **Interpretation of Custody:** The Court debated the definition of 'custody' for individuals accused of crimes, suggesting formal arrest is necessary, which differs from established legal norms.
2. **Emphasis on Compliance:** The Court stressed compliance with certain sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure during searches and seizures, even though previous cases have shown this is not crucial.
3. **Poor Police Investigations:** The Court echoed concerns about the low quality of police investigations, contributing to low conviction rates.
4. **Separation of Roles:** The Justice Malimath Committee recommended separating the investigation and law and order functions in the police force, but its efficacy depends on various factors.
5. **Law Commission's Recommendations:** The Law Commission's report highlighted understaffed police stations and the need for skill upgrades, emphasizing the separation of investigative and law enforcement roles.
6. **State Responses:** State governments have taken steps to separate investigative and law enforcement functions, with challenges arising from manpower shortages, especially in smaller towns.

### **Mains Easy Language**

In the recent *Rajesh & Anr. vs The State of Madhya Pradesh* case, the Indian Supreme Court raised crucial concerns about the quality of criminal investigations. The court stressed the importance of a consistent and dependable code of investigation to ensure that the guilty don't evade justice due to technicalities. The case examined the interpretation of "custody" for individuals accused of crimes, particularly the need for formal arrest, a point that doesn't align with established legal norms.

The court also emphasized the importance of compliance with certain sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure during searches and seizures, despite previous cases indicating that such compliance might not be essential for the evidentiary value of discoveries.



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The article pointed out that police investigations in India often suffer from ineptitude and lack scientific rigor, leading to low conviction rates.

To address these issues, the **Justice Malimath Committee** recommended separating the investigation and law and order functions within the police force, which could improve the quality of investigations. However, the effectiveness of this separation depends on various factors and the efforts made by states in implementing these recommendations. The Law Commission also stressed the need for more staff and skill upgrades within the police force. State governments have taken steps to separate investigative and law enforcement functions, but manpower shortages, especially in smaller towns, have made it challenging to implement these changes effectively. The article calls for consistent monitoring and judicial rulings to ensure compliance with directives and maintain legal clarity.

**22nd October, 2023**

### **Possible Pathways for Long Covid Pathogens Uncovered-Hindu Science**

Science Tech Health

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Uncovering Long COVID Pathogenesis:** Researchers have identified a critical multiorgan pathway that elucidates the prolonged symptoms experienced by Long COVID patients, highlighting the importance of reduced serotonin levels in the development of this condition.
2. **Key Causes and Symptoms of Long COVID:** Long COVID's origins have been tied to persistent viral presence, chronic inflammation, platelet dysfunction, and autonomic nervous system imbalances. Patients commonly exhibit memory issues, brain fog, and difficulty concentrating, which are now linked to decreased peripheral serotonin levels.
3. **Insights from Recent Studies- University of Pennsylvania's Contribution:** A comprehensive study involving over 1,500 Long COVID patients revealed a correlation between reduced serotonin levels and the condition's symptoms. This connection was further confirmed through animal studies, demonstrating that this serotonin reduction phenomenon is not unique to SARS-CoV-2 but is also observed in other viral infections.
4. **Mechanisms Driving Serotonin Reduction-Role of Interferon Signalling:** SARS-CoV-2 infection leads to a drop in serotonin levels via type I interferon signalling, with mechanisms involving decreased tryptophan uptake, lower platelet counts, and increased serotonin turnover. Chronic viral infections result in prolonged serotonin reduction, likely due to unresolved inflammation from viral products.

#### **Mains in Easy Language**

Researchers have found a crucial connection in the body that explains why some people continue to feel unwell long after they've recovered from COVID-19, a condition known as Long COVID. People with Long COVID may be suffering due to a variety of reasons such as lingering viral particles in their body, their own immune system mistakenly attacking their body, problems with blood clotting, or issues with their nervous system. Additionally, these individuals have lower levels of a chemical called serotonin, crucial for brain-body communication, leading to memory issues and difficulty in clear thinking.

In a significant study by the University of Pennsylvania, over 1,500 individuals with Long COVID were examined, revealing a correlation between the condition and reduced serotonin levels, which might explain the cognitive challenges faced by these individuals. To further understand this, the researchers conducted experiments on mice, discovering that infection led to a decrease in serotonin levels, a phenomenon not exclusive to COVID-19 but also observable in other viral infections.

The virus appears to deplete serotonin through various mechanisms: hindering the body's ability to absorb essential nutrients required for serotonin production, decreasing the number of blood cells that transport serotonin, and accelerating the use of





serotonin in the body. Most people recover their serotonin levels after the initial infection phase, but individuals with Long COVID experience prolonged reductions, possibly due to persistent inflammation caused by remnants of the virus.

This breakthrough in understanding Long COVID shines a light on the connection between reduced serotonin levels and the condition's persistent symptoms. It provides a new direction for research and potential treatments, aiming to alleviate the prolonged effects of COVID-19 on affected individuals.

### **A Wake Up Call-Hindu Profiles**

International Relations

#### **Key takeaways**

1. **Escalating Tensions and Treaty Withdrawal:** Russia is moving forward with plans to revoke its commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) amidst growing tensions with the U.S. President Vladimir Putin is pushing this change to align with the U.S.'s position on the treaty.
2. **CTBT Overview:** The CTBT aims to eliminate nuclear explosions worldwide, with 187 countries signing and 178 ratifying. However, it hasn't fully come into effect, needing ratifications from 44 specific nuclear-capable countries.
3. **Historical Context and Treaty Implications:** The CTBT is part of a long-term global effort to limit nuclear weapons, starting with the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963. The CTBT builds on this by introducing a robust verification regime, resulting in a significant decrease in nuclear tests since 1996.
4. **Russian Actions and Global Implications:** Russia's potential withdrawal from the CTBT raises concerns of a renewed arms race and adds to the tension surrounding the Ukraine war. While Russia claims it has no immediate plans to conduct nuclear tests, this move leaves future possibilities open, creating a precarious global situation.

#### **Mains in Easy Language**

Recently, Russia made a significant move by deciding to possibly withdraw from the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), a crucial global agreement aimed at preventing all kinds of nuclear explosions. President Vladimir Putin is steering this change, wanting Russia's stance to reflect that of the United States in relation to this treaty.

The CTBT is a global pact signed by an impressive 187 countries, with the goal of prohibiting nuclear explosions for any purpose. However, it hasn't been fully activated yet. To bring it into force, 44 specific nations with nuclear capabilities need to formally commit to it, and not all of them have done so yet.

Historically, there have been numerous attempts to control nuclear weapons. The Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 was an initial step, banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, underwater, and in outer space, though it allowed underground tests. As time passed, especially during the tense Cold War period, more agreements like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty emerged. The CTBT came into play in 1996, introducing mechanisms to verify compliance with the treaty.

Russia's potential exit from the CTBT is particularly concerning because it could set a precedent, encouraging other countries to withdraw as well, potentially leading to an increase in nuclear weapons testing. This move is also timely, given Russia's current challenges in the war with Ukraine, and some Western nations perceive it as an indication that Russia might be considering the use of nuclear weapons. While Russia has stated that leaving the treaty does not immediately imply they will conduct nuclear tests, and they will only do so if the U.S. does first, it nevertheless heightens global tensions and uncertainty regarding nuclear disarmament and safety.

### **Pioneer of Microfinance- Hindu Profiles**

Economy

#### **Key Takeaways**



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1. **Muhammad Yunus's Impact:** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank significantly impacted poverty alleviation in Bangladesh through innovative microfinancing. At 83, Yunus still actively advocates for a world free from poverty, unemployment, and carbon emissions.
2. **Redefining Capitalism:** Yunus has reshaped capitalism, emphasizing its potential for social good. He criticizes the system for concentrating wealth and advocates for 'social business'—combining capitalism and selflessness.
3. **Microloan Revolution:** The Grameen Bank, established in 1983, provides small loans to the poor, enabling entrepreneurship. This model has been replicated worldwide, despite criticisms regarding interest rates and potential debt accumulation.
4. **Legal Challenges:** Yunus has faced numerous legal issues and controversies in Bangladesh, including being forced out of Grameen Bank in 2011. Over 150 legal cases have been filed against him since 2008.
5. **Global Influence:** Despite controversies, Yunus's microfinance model has transformed lives and economies globally, making financial services accessible to the unbanked and projecting the microfinance market to reach 496.6 billion USD by 2030. His legacy remains rooted in his innovative approach to poverty reduction.

### Mains in Easy Language

Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for revolutionizing capitalism with a social touch, focusing on economic and social development in Bangladesh. Even at 83, Yunus is active and works towards a world free of poverty, unemployment, and carbon emissions. His approach is to humanize capitalism, redirecting the flow of wealth to benefit everyone, not just the rich. He introduced the concept of social business and microloans, providing small, easy loans to the poor to start their own businesses. This idea took off globally since its inception in 1983.

Yunus, after studying in Bangladesh and the U.S., became a professor of economics and later founded the Grameen Bank to combat poverty through micro-lending, influencing over 100 countries to adopt this model. However, the concept faces criticism for high-interest rates and potential misuse for profit, leading to over-indebtedness and a shift from its original pro-poor focus.

Back in Bangladesh, Yunus faced numerous legal challenges, including being ousted from the Grameen Bank due to age regulations, and being accused by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of influencing the World Bank's withdrawal from a major project, which he denies. Currently, he faces a criminal case with potential jail time, adding to the over 150 cases against him since 2008. Despite these issues, Yunus's legacy in expanding microfinance globally is undeniable, with the market valued at \$178.8 billion in 2020, projected to reach \$496.6 billion by 2030. His work has proven that microfinance can be a powerful tool in fighting poverty and changing economic and social structures, providing banking services to those previously excluded.

### How Nanoparticles are hurting your lungs. brain-Indian Express Health

Science Tech health

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Health Impact:** Nanoparticles in air pollution pose severe health risks, infiltrating vital organs and causing issues ranging from respiratory problems to potential brain damage.
2. **Nanoparticle Characteristics:** With dimensions significantly smaller than PM 2.5 and PM 10, nanoparticles can remain suspended in the air for long periods and travel vast distances.
3. **Respiratory Risks:** They can penetrate deep into the lungs, causing damage, inflammation, and stress, especially for those with pre-existing conditions, as well as affecting children and the elderly.
4. **Cardiovascular and Neurological Threats:** Beyond the lungs, nanoparticles can enter the bloodstream, increasing heart attack or stroke risks, and breach the blood-brain barrier, potentially leading to cognitive and neurological issues.
5. **Mitigation Strategies:** To reduce exposure, use Personal Protective Equipment, employ HEPA filters at home, maintain good ventilation, avoid high pollution areas, and choose natural products when possible.





## Mains in Easy Language

The article discusses how really small particles in air pollution, called nanoparticles, are becoming a serious health concern in cities. These particles are way smaller than what we usually talk about, like PM 2.5 and PM 10. They're so tiny that they can get deep into our bodies, affecting not just our lungs but also potentially our brains.

Because they are so small, these nanoparticles can stay in the air for a long time and travel really far. This means they can cause health problems over a larger area. The particles are so tiny that they can get past our body's natural defenses like our nose and the mucus in our respiratory system. This allows them to get deep into our lungs and cause serious health issues, especially for people with existing breathing problems, as well as children and older adults.

The article highlights that when these nanoparticles get into our lungs, they can cause inflammation, stress, and even damage to our cells. This is particularly bad for people with conditions like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). There's also concern that these particles could get from our lungs into our bloodstream, and from there, they could reach parts of our cardiovascular system, increasing the risk of heart attacks or strokes.

Additionally, there's a risk that these nanoparticles could even cross the blood-brain barrier, which is supposed to protect our brain from harmful stuff in our blood. If they can do this, they might cause issues like inflammation in the brain, and contribute to serious conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

To protect ourselves from these nanoparticles, the article suggests using personal protective equipment if you're exposed to them at work, using air purifiers with HEPA filters at home, keeping our living spaces well-ventilated, avoiding areas with lots of air pollution, and choosing natural products when we can.

**23rd October, 2023**

### **Diplomacy in Crisis- Indian Express Editorial**

International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Biden's Bold Move to Israel-** President Joe Biden risked personal safety to defuse tensions in Israel following a deadly Hamas attack, though Israeli military retaliation has intensified the humanitarian crisis in Northern Gaza.
2. **Diplomatic Efforts in a Tense Situation-** Biden sought a diplomatic resolution amid Israeli demands for retribution and the Palestinian humanitarian crisis. However, the situation worsened with the bombing of a hospital in Gaza, leading to a canceled summit in Jordan.
3. **Western Support and Multifaceted Strategy-** Western allies back Biden's efforts, advocating for Israeli solidarity while urging restraint and pushing for humanitarian aid and hostage release in Gaza.
4. **Biden's Gaza Diplomacy: A Paradox-** Despite the challenges, Biden's unique diplomatic efforts highlight the U.S.'s capacity for moderation in the region, though the situation remains fragile and uncertain.

#### **For Mains, in easy Language**

President Joe Biden, the leader of the United States, decided to go on a really risky trip to Israel. Now, why is it risky? Because not too long ago, on October 7th, Hamas, which is a terror group based in Palestine, attacked Israel. In response, the Israeli military hit back even harder, causing a lot of Palestinians to die and creating a really big crisis, especially in Northern Gaza where they're telling people to leave their homes.

Now, Biden stepping into this situation is like jumping into a pool with no idea how deep it is. On one side, you have the Israelis who are really angry and want to hit back at Hamas for the attack. And on the other side, there are Palestinian civilians who are



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stuck in the middle of this and are suffering a lot. So, Biden is trying to calm things down and open up a space for people to talk and solve this issue diplomatically, instead of just fighting.

But here's the thing, while Biden was there, a hospital in Gaza got bombed, and that made everything much worse. It got so bad that they even had to cancel a big meeting that was supposed to happen in Jordan with some of the more moderate Arab countries that are neighbors with Israel.

Despite all of this, Biden is not alone in this. He's got some backup from his friends in the West, like German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. These guys are all working together on a few things. First, they are showing Israel that they are not alone and have full support. Even though there are a lot of people in the West who don't agree with what Israel is doing, the support from these Western leaders isn't shaking. Second, Biden is telling Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that they need to think carefully before they decide to go full force into Gaza to get rid of Hamas. Third, Biden is working hard to make sure that the people in Gaza can get some much-needed help and humanitarian aid. Fourth, they are talking to Qatar, a country that supports Hamas, to try and get them to help release almost 200 hostages in Gaza. And lastly, they are thinking about the future. They want to set up a more moderate government there and start fixing up the place, with the help of the Arab states.

The article points out that this situation really shows that the U.S. still has a big role to play in trying to bring peace to the region, even though some people think the U.S. is losing its power in the world. But the road ahead is really tough. Netanyahu might delay sending troops into Gaza, but he hasn't taken it off the table. And the moderate Arab countries, are stuck between a rock and a hard place because their people are really angry at Israel, and it's tough for them to show any support for Israel right now.

### **Holding Steady-Indian Express Editorial**

Economy

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Robust Growth:** The Indian economy grew by 7.8% in the first quarter of the financial year, with positive momentum expected to continue, supported by festive season spending. The Reserve Bank of India anticipates a 6.8% growth in the second quarter, slightly above expectations.
2. **Positive Indicators:** Economic indicators show sustained momentum with strong activity in manufacturing, services, automobile sales, and construction. The real estate market is growing steadily, and there's a notable increase in toll collections, air cargo, and railway freight. Unemployment rates are also declining.
3. **Persisting Challenges:** However, challenges remain with shrinking exports, a lack of broad-based investment revival, and inadequate high-quality job creation. Rural demand is still under pressure, and a sharp rise in household borrowings raises concerns about financial distress and the sustainability of debt-fueled consumption.

#### **For Mains, in easy Language**

So, this article is basically talking about how the Indian economy is doing pretty well right now. In the first few months of our financial year, we've seen a growth of 7.8%, which is a good sign. The experts at the RBI think this good vibe in the economy is going to continue for the next few months, due to festive season.

They've looked at a bunch of different signs to come to this conclusion. For example, both the manufacturing and services sectors are buzzing with activity, people are buying more cars (especially the three-wheeler kind), and we're using a lot more steel and cement which means there's a lot of construction happening. Even the housing market is doing well, though the prices for homes and the interest rates are a bit on the high side.

However, our exports aren't doing that great, which shows that the demand from around the world is a bit slow. Even though companies here are doing better financially, we're not seeing a huge boost in overall investments. We've got more people, participating in the workforce, but a lot of them are ending up self-employed because there aren't enough good quality jobs available. People in the rural areas aren't spending as much, and there's a noticeable increase in the amount of money households







owe, which could be a sign that people are borrowing more because they're in a tight spot financially. So, while things are looking up, there are still a few areas we need to keep an eye on to make sure the economy stays on the right track.

### **Through a narrow lens- Indian Express Editorial**

Polity

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Majority Against Recognition:** The verdict in the *Supriya Chakraborty v. Union of India* case had a majority (3:2) against legally recognizing non-heteronormative marriages.
2. **Strong Government Opposition:** The central government strongly opposed recognizing marriages outside traditional heterosexual unions, which influenced the court's decision.
3. **Disappointment for LGBTQIA+ Community:** The outcome of the case is a profound letdown for the LGBTQIA+ community and constitutional law advocates, as it prioritizes majority opinions over constitutional principles.
4. **Justice Chandrachud's Position:** Justice Chandrachud, known for delivering progressive judgments, did not support recognizing non-heterosexual marriages in this case, disappointing his admirers.
5. **Reluctance in Interpretation:** The article highlights the court's reluctance to interpret the law more inclusively, despite previous judgments that extended the reach of statutes to protect rights.
6. **Importance of Fundamental Rights:** Denying the fundamental right to marry is seen as frustrating, as marriage is associated with the right to life and procreation.
7. **Need for Review:** The article suggests that the decision should be reviewed, and there is hope that judges may change their minds in the future.

#### **Mains in Easy language**

The article discusses a recent court verdict in India that dealt with the issue of marriage equality for LGBTQIA+ individuals. The verdict was not in favor of recognizing same-sex unions, and it had a majority decision against such recognition.

The central government opposed recognizing same-sex marriages, and this opposition played a significant role in the outcome of the case.

The article points out that this decision is disappointing for the LGBTQIA+ community and constitutional law advocates. It seems to prioritize majority opinions over constitutional principles.

Justice Chandrachud, who has previously delivered progressive judgments, did not support recognizing non-heterosexual marriages in this case.

The article also raises questions about the court's reluctance to interpret the law to include same-sex couples, given that previous judgments have extended the reach of statutes to protect rights. It highlights the importance of not diluting judicially created fundamental rights.

The author argues that denying the fundamental right to marry is frustrating, especially when marriage is often associated with the right to life and procreation.

The article suggests that the decision should be reviewed, and there is hope that judges may change their minds in the future.

### **Towards a politics of presence- Indian Express Editorial**

Society

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Historic Legislation:** The Women's Reservation Bill, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, is a landmark legislation representing a significant achievement for the women's movement in India.
2. **Decades-Long Struggle:** The approval of the bill in Parliament marks the end of a 27-year journey, showcasing the persistent efforts to secure women's participation in politics.





3. **Shift to the Politics of Presence:** The bill signifies a transition from the politics of mere rhetoric to a politics of active presence, ensuring women's meaningful engagement in the political arena.
4. **Embracing "Politics of Presence":** The "politics of presence" concept underscores the importance of including women in politics, recognizing their unique skills, perspectives, and experiences that enrich the political landscape.
5. **Historical Contributions:** Women in India have a history of rejecting invisibility and making substantial contributions to various movements, including during the freedom struggle.
6. **Addressing Gender-Based Inequalities:** Initiatives like the "Towards Equality" report have shed light on gender-based inequalities, leading to movements that address issues like violence against women, access to education, employment, and girls' rights.
7. **Empowering Measures:** Recent initiatives and legislation, such as extending property rights in tribal communities and the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao program, have empowered women and strengthened their role in society.
8. **Influential Women in Governance:** Women parliamentarians have been influential in shaping progressive legislation, occupying key positions in the government, and actively participating in the political decision-making process.

### Mains in Easy Language

The Women's Reservation Bill, recently passed in India, is a significant achievement for women's participation in politics. It took 27 years to be approved, reflecting the importance of women's role in an inclusive democracy. This article discusses the relationship between affirmative action, like the Women's Reservation Bill, and the political equality of women.

The bill aims to transition from rhetoric to the politics of presence, ensuring that women are actively engaged in politics. The "politics of presence" concept emphasizes the unique skills and perspectives that women bring to politics, making it more inclusive. Throughout history, women in India have rejected invisibility and made important contributions to various movements, including the freedom struggle. Gender-based inequalities have been highlighted, leading to movements addressing issues like violence against women, access to education and employment, and the rights of the girl child.

Recent initiatives and legislation have empowered women in various ways, including extending property rights and promoting female education. Women parliamentarians have been instrumental in shaping progressive legislation and holding key positions in government.

Women in India have made significant progress in education and various fields, demonstrating their commitment to contributing to the country's success. While there are procedural challenges in implementing the quota for women, the Women's Reservation Bill reflects a mandate for gender equality in politics. The article emphasizes the importance of training women for political participation, including encouraging higher education in relevant fields and mentorship by established women politicians. It advocates for the theory of reflective autonomy, emphasizing engagement, emancipation, and empathy, to ensure substantive gender equality in politics.

### Vienna Convention

International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Diplomatic Standoff:** There's a significant diplomatic tension between India and Canada, highlighted by Canada's recent recall of 41 diplomats from India due to concerns over their immunity and personal safety.
2. **Parity Demand:** India has requested Canada to reduce its diplomatic presence, aiming for parity in the number of diplomats stationed in each other's countries, as India has around 20 diplomats in Canada.
3. **International Support:** The U.S. and the U.K. have expressed their support for Canadian diplomats in India, emphasizing the importance of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.





4. **India's Stance:** India has firmly rejected Canada's Foreign Minister's allegations, insisting their actions are in line with international law and justified due to the imbalance in diplomatic presence and Canada's interference in India's internal affairs.
5. **Understanding the Vienna Convention:** The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations establishes guidelines for diplomatic interactions between countries, including the principle of diplomatic immunity, to ensure diplomats can work without fear or intimidation.
6. **Worldwide Adoption:** The convention is widely accepted, with 193 countries ratifying it, agreeing to abide by its principles to maintain harmonious international relations.

### For Mains, in Easy Language

There's a tense situation happening right now between India and Canada. Recently, the Canadian government decided to bring back 41 of their diplomats from India, claiming that these diplomats were in danger. The Canadian Foreign Minister, Melanie Joly, said that there was a risk of India suddenly taking away their diplomatic immunity, which could put their safety at risk.

Earlier, India had asked Canada to reduce the number of their diplomats in India because India has around 20 diplomats in Canada, and they wanted the numbers to be more balanced. In support of the Canadian diplomats, both the United States and the United Kingdom have expressed their backing, highlighting an international agreement called the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

India, however, doesn't agree with Canada's actions or reasons. The Indian government stated that the number of Canadian diplomats in India is much higher than the number of Indian diplomats in Canada. Plus, they accused Canadian diplomats of interfering in India's internal affairs. They believe that their request for fewer Canadian diplomats in India is fair and follows international law, particularly the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is a big deal. It's an agreement that the United Nations made in 1961, and it lays out the rules for how countries should treat each other's diplomats. It aims to make sure that diplomats can do their work without being threatened or intimidated in the country they're posted to. A key part of this is diplomatic immunity, which means that diplomats are exempt from certain laws and taxes in the country they are in. Currently, 193 countries have agreed to follow this treaty.

So in simple terms, the article talks about a current conflict between India and Canada, where there's disagreement over the number of diplomats each country has in the other's territory, and concerns about their safety and diplomatic immunity, all of which are tied to international laws and agreements.

### [Amid divide, Bedouin Arabs serving in the Israeli army: history, present-Indian Express Explained](#)

History

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Casualties in Israel-Hamas Conflict:** The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has resulted in casualties, including at least four Bedouin soldiers from the Israeli side.
2. **Public Gratitude:** A viral video has circulated on social media showcasing Israelis expressing their gratitude towards a Bedouin commander named Ashraf, highlighting his effective defense strategies against Hamas fighters.
3. **Bedouin Community Background:** The Bedouins are nomadic Muslim Arab people, predominantly residing in the Negev desert of southern Israel. Traditionally pastoralists, their lifestyle has evolved over the past century and a half, with a gradual transition from nomadism to a more sedentary way of living.
4. **Integration with IDF:** Many Bedouins have joined the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), serving in various capacities, especially in scouting or tracking units. Their relationship with the IDF dates back to the time before the formation of Israel, and they have played significant roles in different conflicts, including the Arab-Israeli war of 1948-49.





5. **Citizenship and Settlement:** In the 1950s, Israel granted citizenship to a large number of Bedouins and assisted in establishing settlements for them in the Negev. Their involvement with the IDF continued to grow, with the establishment of specialized units and programs aimed at integrating them into the military.
6. **Memorialization:** In 1993, Israel inaugurated a memorial, the Garden of the Broken Heart, dedicated to Bedouin warriors who lost their lives serving the country, including those whose burial places remain unknown.
7. **Voluntary Military Service:** Military training is not compulsory for the Bedouin population; however, many Bedouin youth choose to volunteer. In 2021, a record number of around 600 Bedouins enlisted in the Israeli military.
8. **Social Integration:** The Bedouin population in Israel, numbering around 210,000 individuals, has seen varying degrees of integration into broader Israeli society. Initiatives such as Operation Negev Shield aim to further this integration through educational programs and community engagement.
9. **Educational Outreach:** The IDF actively participates in community outreach, with officers visiting Bedouin schools weekly to provide education and support, helping to steer young men away from criminal activity.
10. **Bedouin Presence in the North:** Many Bedouins serving in desert reconnaissance units come from northern Israel, where they coexist with Jewish and Arab communities, showcasing an example of social integration.

### For Mains, in Easy language

This article is talking about a group of people called the Bedouins, who are mainly Muslim Arabs, living in the southern part of Israel, mostly in the Negev desert. Traditionally, they used to move around a lot with their animals, but over the past 150 years, they have started to settle down in one place.

Now, the main focus of the article is on their role in the Israeli military, known as the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). It seems that a lot of Bedouins have joined the IDF, and they have a history of working with Jewish people in the area, even before Israel became a country. During a war in 1948-49, they helped the Jewish militias and the IDF by giving them useful information and sometimes fighting alongside them. Later on, in the 1950s, Israel gave them citizenship and helped them set up permanent homes in the Negev.

The Bedouins have continued to work with the IDF, especially in scouting and tracking. They are really good at navigating the desert and have special units in the IDF that do this kind of work. In fact, there's even a memorial in Israel dedicated to Bedouin soldiers who have died, showing how much they are valued.

Even though it's not required for the Bedouins to join the IDF, many of them choose to do so voluntarily. In 2021, a record number of around 600 Bedouins signed up.

In terms of how well the Bedouins are doing in Israeli society, it's a bit of a mixed picture. Many of them live in the north of Israel and get along well with their Jewish and Arab neighbors. However, there are still efforts being made to help them integrate more into society, with educational programs and other initiatives.

The article also mentions a project called Operation Negev Shield, which is aimed at helping Bedouin communities get better access to education and other opportunities, and steering young men away from getting involved in crime. Part of this involves IDF officers going to Bedouin schools to talk to the kids.

So, in short, the article is about the unique relationship between the Bedouins and the Israeli military, their history together, and the ongoing efforts to help the Bedouin community integrate into broader Israeli society.

### [The ascent begins-The Hindu Editorial](#)

Science and Technology (Space)

### Key Takeaways



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1. **Uncrewed Developmental Flight Initiated** ISRO achieved a major milestone by launching the first uncrewed developmental flight of 'Gaganyaan' from Sriharikota, marking a significant step toward India's human spaceflight goals.
2. **Crew Module and Crew-Escape System (CES) Demonstration** A single-stage rocket carried a crew module with a crew-escape system (CES) to 12 km altitude, ensuring CES detachment at 17 km, assuring astronaut safety in case of rocket malfunctions.
3. **Reorientation and Splashdown** After separation, the crew module reoriented before splashing down in the Bay of Bengal, using drogue and main parachutes to control the descent.
4. **Data Collection for Future Tests** Onboard sensors collected critical data for informing future tests and overall mission success.
5. **Emphasis on Precision and Safety** ISRO Chairman S. Somanath emphasized the organization's commitment to precision and rigorous testing to ensure astronaut safety.
6. **Delays in the Schedule and Cost** The 'Gaganyaan' program, initially estimated at ₹12,400 crore, faced delays due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, pushing the first crewed flight to a projected date of 2025.
7. **Ambitious Lunar Mission and Forward-Looking Strategy** Despite challenging deadlines and financial considerations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims for ISRO to launch humans to the moon by 2040. ISRO's strategy includes careful planning, bolstering local manufacturing, and extensive testing to ensure mission success while enhancing national space capabilities.

### Mains Easy Language

In a significant leap towards India's dream of human spaceflight, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) recently conducted the first uncrewed developmental flight for the 'Gaganyaan' mission. This crucial event took place in Sriharikota and showcased some remarkable achievements.

A single-stage rocket carried a crew module with a crew-escape system (CES) to an altitude of 12 km. At this point, the CES separated from the crew module, demonstrating its ability to protect astronauts in case the rocket encounters issues. The crew module then went through reorientation and landed safely in the Bay of Bengal with the help of parachutes, highlighting the importance of precise and safe landings.

This test flight also collected valuable data via onboard sensors, which will be crucial for future missions. ISRO's Chairman, S. Somanath, underlined the commitment to precision and rigorous testing, ensuring astronaut safety in future endeavors.

However, the 'Gaganyaan' program faced delays due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This has pushed the projected date for the first crewed flight to 2025, with an ambitious aim to send humans to the moon by 2040. ISRO's strategy involves careful planning, strengthening local manufacturing capabilities, and extensive testing to ensure mission success and enhance India's space capabilities.

The recent milestone shows India's commitment to becoming a significant player in space exploration, marking an exciting chapter in the country's space journey.

### [Restoring the ecological health of the Himalayas-The Hindu Editorial](#)

Environment

### Key Takeaways



| Clear your doubts now.



1. **Environmental Concerns in the Himalayas:** The Himalayan states - Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim - are grappling with severe environmental degradation, raising concerns about their "carrying capacity" and the delicate balance between human activities and ecosystem preservation.
2. **Supreme Court's Involvement:** The Supreme Court of India has intervened in response to a petition to address the issue of carrying capacity in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), emphasizing the need for government action.
3. **Government's Assessment Plan:** The Ministry of Environment proposes a comprehensive assessment plan led by the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, involving various reputable institutions and experts.
4. **Emphasis on Sustainable Development:** The government's approach highlights the shift toward sustainable development, focusing on holistic carrying capacity and prioritizing the well-being of the region's residents.
5. **Comprehensive Assessment Needed:** The assessment must encompass the entire IHR, including spontaneous settlements along the road network, with the primary focus on assessing the "Sustainable Population" for the Himalayan States.
6. **Importance of Community Engagement:** Engaging with local communities is vital for addressing the region's challenges, as their concerns have been overlooked in past projects like hydropower and infrastructure, making their input essential for sustainable solutions.

### Mains Easy Language

In the Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim, serious environmental problems are causing harm to the region's delicate balance. This has sparked a discussion about the "carrying capacity" of these areas, which means figuring out how many people and what kind of development these states can sustain without causing irreversible damage to their natural resources and environment. The situation became so concerning that the Supreme Court of India stepped in, responding to a petition from a retired police officer who highlighted these issues.

To address these concerns, the government proposed a comprehensive assessment plan. This plan, led by the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and involving other experts and institutions, aims to understand the limits of the region's sustainable development and prioritize the well-being of its residents.

The key message here is that it's not just about towns and cities. Spontaneous settlements along the region's road network need to be accounted for as well. This assessment focuses on finding a "Sustainable Population" for the Himalayan States, ensuring they can prosper without harming their unique environment.

But what's essential in this process is engaging with local communities. In the past, the concerns of the people who live in the Himalayas were often ignored when major projects, like hydropower or infrastructure development, were planned. Now, there's a push to include these communities in decision-making, recognizing that their insight and concerns are vital for creating sustainable solutions for this ecologically vital region.

### [How bat genomes provide insights into immunity and cancer-The Hindu Science](#)

### Science and Technology

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Bats Are Extraordinary Creatures:** Bats are unique animals, capable of sustained flight, resistant to diseases like cancer, and using echolocation for navigation.





2. **Bats as Reservoirs of Deadly Viruses:** Bats have gained attention as carriers of deadly viruses, including coronaviruses and Nipah, with the COVID-19 pandemic underscoring their role in disease transmission.
3. **Mystery of Bat Immunity:** Bats can host various pathogens without getting sick, leaving scientists intrigued by their immunity and prompting genetic research.
4. **Insights from Bat Genomes:** Studying bat genomes, which are relatively small, has provided insights into their biology, particularly in 2013 when researchers compared fruit-eating and insect-eating bat genomes.
5. **Unique Bat Immunity:** Bats have distinct immunity-related genes, a smaller fraction than humans, but some have undergone positive selection. This allows bats to control virus spread and reduce inflammatory responses, shielding them from disease.
6. **The Role of Genomic Sequencing:** Genomic sequencing, including metagenomic sequencing, has been crucial in understanding the diverse viruses carried by bats and their unique ability to co-infect with multiple viruses.
7. **Future Challenges and Solutions:** With increasing human-animal interactions and ecological degradation, the risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks rises. Advanced genomic sequencing can help manage these outbreaks while maintaining ecological balance.

### **Mains Easy Language**

In a nutshell, this article explores the fascinating world of bats and their role in carrying deadly viruses, while also revealing the secrets behind their incredible immunity and resistance to diseases, including cancer.

Bats are truly exceptional creatures. They are the only mammals capable of sustained flight, and they possess unique abilities such as echolocation, which enables them to navigate in the dark. Bats make up a significant portion of Earth's mammal population and play crucial roles in pollination and controlling insect populations.

However, bats have come under the spotlight for their connection to several deadly viruses, including coronaviruses and Nipah, which can pose serious threats to human health. While they act as carriers for these viruses, bats themselves don't get sick, which has left scientists intrigued.

The key to understanding this mystery lies in the study of bat genomes. By analyzing their genetic makeup, researchers have discovered that bats have unique genetic adaptations. These adaptations allow them to control the spread of viruses and reduce inflammation, effectively shielding them from the diseases caused by these viruses.

Moreover, genomic sequencing techniques have played a vital role in unraveling the viruses that bats carry, shedding light on their ability to harbor multiple viruses simultaneously without falling ill.

As our world faces growing deforestation, ecological degradation, and increased interactions between humans and animals, genomic sequencing emerges as a valuable tool for managing potential disease outbreaks while preserving our delicate ecological balance.

**24th October 2023**

**[Vienna gives Delhi the right- Indian Express Editorial](#)**



| Clear your doubts now.



## International Relations

### Key Takeaways

1. **Diplomatic Dispute:** India and Canada are in a diplomatic disagreement stemming from suspicions of Canada's involvement in a Khalistani extremist's murder on Canadian soil.
2. **Canada's Accusation:** Canada has accused India of violating international law by allegedly revoking diplomatic immunity for Canadian diplomats in India.
3. **India's Response:** India did not revoke immunity; instead, it requested Canada to reduce the size of its diplomatic mission in India.
4. **Vienna Convention Rule:** India's actions are in line with Article 11(1) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which allows the receiving state to ask the sending state to limit the size of its mission based on what it deems "reasonable and normal."
5. **Subjective Test:** The rule employs a subjective test, allowing India to decide what's reasonable and normal based on its circumstances.
6. **Legal Options:** India can also consider other legal options, such as Article 41(1) of VCDR, if Canadian diplomats interfere in India's internal affairs.
7. **Indian Law Support:** India's Diplomatic Relations Act of 1972 enables the government to restrict diplomatic privileges for countries not adhering to VCDR obligations.
8. **Trust Issues:** The primary issue in this dispute is a lack of trust between India and Canada, highlighting the importance of rebuilding trust through diplomacy instead of legal accusations.

### Mains in Easy Language

India and Canada are in a diplomatic dispute, which began with allegations surrounding the murder of a Khalistani extremist on Canadian soil. Canada has accused India of violating international law by unilaterally revoking diplomatic immunity for its diplomats in India. However, India's response was not to revoke immunity but to request Canada to reduce the size of its diplomatic mission in India. This action is in accordance with Article 11(1) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR), which allows the receiving state (India) to ask the sending state (Canada) to limit the size of its mission based on what it deems "reasonable and normal."

Importantly, this provision uses a subjective test, meaning India can determine what's reasonable and normal based on its specific circumstances. Moreover, various countries have used Article 11(1) to control the size of foreign diplomatic missions when necessary. In addition to Article 11(1), India has other legal options under VCDR, like Article 41(1), if Canadian diplomats are found to interfere in India's internal affairs. India's Diplomatic Relations Act of 1972 supports these actions, empowering the government to restrict diplomatic privileges and immunities for countries not complying with VCDR obligations. Beyond the legal aspects, the core issue in this dispute is a lack of trust between the two countries, and it is essential for both nations to focus on building confidence rather than making accusations of breaching international law.

### [The uneven spread of Medical Colleges, debate over regulator's new guidelines- Indian Express Explained](#)

## Polity

### Key Takeaways

1. **Uneven Distribution of Medical Colleges:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) issued new guidelines in August, restricting the establishment of new medical colleges and the expansion of existing ones in states with over 100 medical education seats per million population.







2. **Southern States' Concerns:** Southern states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, are upset with these guidelines as they are now ineligible for additional medical education seats. Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister has expressed strong opposition to these regulations.
3. **Population-to-Seats Ratio:** NMC argues that distributing medical colleges evenly according to population could add approximately 40,000 MBBS seats in India. However, several states exceed the recommended population-to-seats ratio, not just in South India.
4. **Acute Shortage in Some States:** States like Meghalaya, Bihar, and Jharkhand have severe shortages of medical college seats compared to their populations.
5. **Future Implementation:** These guidelines apply only to new medical colleges established or seat increases sought from the 2024-25 academic year onwards.
6. **Reasoning Behind Guidelines:** The NMC's move aims to ensure a more equitable distribution of medical colleges across India, addressing regional disparities in healthcare professional availability.

### Main Synopsis:

The National Medical Commission's (NMC) recent implementation of guidelines has ignited a contentious debate surrounding the unequal distribution of medical colleges in India. The new guidelines set restrictions on states with more than 100 medical education seats per million population, thereby halting the establishment of new medical colleges and expansion of existing ones. Southern states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, which exceed this threshold, have voiced their concerns, with Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M K Stalin strongly opposing the NMC's guidelines, deeming them a direct infringement on state rights. The NMC's rationale for these guidelines is to promote a more even distribution of medical colleges across the country. The argument is that if medical colleges were distributed according to population, there could potentially be an addition of about 40,000 MBBS seats nationwide. However, the issue extends beyond the southern states, as data reveal that at least 13 states and Union Territories have surpassed the NMC's recommended population-to-seats ratio. In this context, states such as Meghalaya, Bihar, and Jharkhand face an acute shortage of medical college seats, with deficits exceeding 75% of the NMC's recommended ratio, making it a nationwide concern.

These guidelines will be applicable only to future applications for new colleges or seat increases, sparing existing institutions. However, while the NMC's intent to ensure a better distribution of medical colleges is commendable, experts underline the importance of maintaining education quality and addressing faculty shortages. Despite an increase in the number of medical college seats over the past few years, the shortage of faculty remains a significant challenge, even in prestigious institutions like MAMC and AIIMS. The NMC's objective is to create a more equitable distribution of medical colleges to tackle regional disparities in healthcare professional availability, aiming to enhance the overall quality of medical education in India.

### [If caste is at the centre- Indian Express Editorial](#)

Society

### Key Takeaways:

1. **Caste Enumeration:** Caste enumeration is crucial for addressing social inequalities in India, as caste is a significant determinant of life opportunities and outcomes.
2. **Political Manipulation:** While social equality is a powerful slogan for garnering votes, it often plays a role in consolidating power among political dynasties, who exploit caste and communal sentiments.



| Clear your doubts now.



3. **Reservations and Creamy Layers:** The constitutional provisions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes aimed to empower these communities through proportional representation. However, the benefits of reservations have not trickled down as expected, with creamy layers often monopolizing these advantages.
4. **Formation of Creamy Layers:** Creamy layers emerge when early beneficiaries of reservations accumulate social and cultural capital, leaving latecomers in the same category at a disadvantage.
5. **Role of Family and Nepotism:** Nepotism and family ties play a significant role in exacerbating social and economic inequalities in India, as family kinship is highly valued.
6. **Dismantling Elitist Institutions:** To address social inequality, there's a need to dismantle institutions that perpetuate elitism. However, building and sustaining public institutions require cultural pride that leans towards elitism, creating a paradox.
7. **Neglect of Public Institutions:** The focus on caste politics often diverts attention from the critical task of developing and nurturing public institutions, particularly in the fields of education and healthcare.

### Main Synopsis:

The debate over caste enumeration and its implications diverts attention from the more pressing and challenging task of nurturing public institutions in India. Caste plays a pivotal role in shaping life opportunities and inequalities. While the rhetoric of social equality is a powerful tool for political mobilization, it often contributes to the entrenchment of power among political dynasties that exploit caste and communal sentiments.

The constitutional provisions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes aimed to empower these communities through proportional representation, with the hope that this would lead to widespread social mobility and improved life opportunities. However, the experience shows that the benefits of reservations do not always trickle down as expected. Creamy layers, often formed within these reserved categories, tend to monopolize the advantages, leaving more marginalized castes and subcastes seeking additional quotas and reclassification.

The formation of creamy layers occurs because early beneficiaries of reservations can amass social and cultural capital, accentuating the disadvantages of latecomers within the same reserved categories. Family and kinship ties, deeply rooted in Indian culture, further exacerbate social and economic inequalities. The battle against caste and social inequality must be extended to challenge the institution of the Indian family, where family interests often take precedence over public responsibilities.

In this context, the politics of caste, including discussions about caste enumeration, shifts focus away from the critical need to build and nurture public institutions, especially in education and healthcare. India's deficiency of such institutions, both in terms of quantity and quality, has been highlighted by various reports. Unfortunately, policymakers and politicians often prioritize caste politics over institution-building, contributing to the overall decline in the quality of public institutions. The politics of equality requires not just addressing caste-related issues but also dismantling institutions that perpetuate elitism, creating a complex paradox in the pursuit of social justice.

### [It Is not Woman vs Foetus-Indian Express Editorial](#)

Society

### Key Takeaways:



| Clear your doubts now.



**1. Abortion Rights at a Crossroads:** The recent debate on 'foeticide' and 'beating heart' is redefining the landscape of abortion rights. It raises concerns about potential shifts that prioritize the foetus over a woman's autonomy, echoing the events in the 2022 US case.

**2. Evolving Abortion Perspectives in India:** In 2022, the Indian Supreme Court recognized the vital importance of women's reproductive choices. It emphasized the preservation of women's dignity and access to reproductive healthcare.

**3. Reversal of Abortion Rights:** Contrary to the earlier stance, a subsequent ruling in October 2022 favored a narrow medical perspective over a woman's choice, indicating a potential shift away from progressive abortion rights.

**4. A Comparative Look at the US:** Anti-abortion activists and conservative judges in the United States have posed challenges to abortion rights. In India, the judiciary has, for the most part, supported the extension of abortion limits in favor of pregnant women.

**5. Legislative Changes and Potential Limits:** Amendments to Indian law extended the gestational limit for medical termination from 20 to 24 weeks. Recent Supreme Court decisions may signal limitations on further expanding abortion rights.

**6. The Case in Focus:** A woman's request for an abortion after 24 weeks of gestation with a healthy foetus highlights the complexity of the issue. Although the AIIMS medical board supported her choice, complications arose during the process.

### **Mains easy language**

In India, there's a growing debate about women's abortion rights. The discussion revolves around words like 'foeticide' and 'beating heart,' which can potentially change the way we view these rights. The concern is that these debates might give more importance to the unborn child than to the woman carrying it, which is similar to what happened in the United States in 2022.

Until recently, India had a fairly liberal stance on abortion rights. The Indian Supreme Court recognized that a woman's right to make choices about her own body was crucial. It emphasized the need to protect her dignity and access to healthcare for reproductive matters.

However, things took a turn in October 2022. A different bench, in a surprising move, seemed to prioritize medical opinions over a woman's choice in an abortion case. This raised concerns about whether we might be heading toward a more restrictive stance on abortion rights.

In the United States, similar debates have caused tensions between women's rights and the rights of the unborn child. In India, though, courts have generally leaned toward extending abortion rights. Recent changes in the law extended the time frame for legal abortions, which was seen as a positive step.

Yet, these recent developments suggest that the future of abortion rights in India may be uncertain. It's important to recognize these concerns and work to ensure that women's choices and rights are protected, as they should be.

### **[Why sales of Automatic cars are booming- Indian Express explained](#)**

Economy

### **Key Takeaways:**



| Clear your doubts now.



1. **Surge in Automatic Car Sales:** The Indian automotive market has witnessed a significant surge in the sales of automatic transmission cars, driven by factors like improved technology, ease of driving in traffic, and decreased mileage gap with manual transmissions.
2. **Customization and Technology:** Manufacturers now offer a wide range of automatic technologies across various price points, making automatic cars more accessible to a broader consumer base. This surge is attributed to advancements and innovations in auto technology.
3. **Shift from Torque Converters:** A decade ago, automatic cars primarily used the 'torque converter' technology, which was costlier and less fuel-efficient than manual counterparts. However, recent years have seen a shift towards more advanced automatic technologies.
4. **Manufacturer Trends:** Maruti Suzuki offers automatic variants across most of its car models, with non-manual sales rising significantly. Hyundai, Volkswagen, and other manufacturers have also seen a substantial increase in automatic car sales.
5. **Geographic Trends:** Northern and western regions of India, including the NCR region and Maharashtra, are leading in automatic car sales. Southern states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala also contribute significantly.
6. **Types of Automatics:** There are various types of automatic transmissions, including AMTs, iMTs, CVTs, DCTs, and torque converters. These technologies offer different driving experiences, efficiencies, and price points.

### Main Synopsis:

The Indian automobile market is experiencing a surge in the sales of automatic transmission cars, underpinned by multiple factors. Ease of driving in traffic and a shrinking gap in mileage compared to manual transmissions are significant contributors to this trend. However, the primary catalyst is the proliferation of various automatic technologies across different price ranges. This expanded availability is the result of substantial innovations and improvements in auto technology by manufacturers.

A decade ago, the landscape was vastly different, with 'torque converter' technology dominating the automatic car segment. These older automatics were considerably more expensive than their manual counterparts and delivered inferior fuel efficiency. However, the situation has changed dramatically.

Maruti Suzuki, for instance, now offers automatic transmission options for nearly all of its passenger car models, significantly increasing non-manual sales. Other manufacturers, such as Hyundai and Volkswagen, are also witnessing a notable shift towards automatic cars.

Geographically, the northern and western regions of India are leading the charge in automatic car sales, with the NCR region and Maharashtra being significant contributors. Southern states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala, are also showing substantial growth in this segment.

Various types of automatic transmissions are available in the Indian market, catering to diverse consumer preferences. These include Automated Manual Transmissions (AMTs), Intelligent Manual Transmissions (iMTs), Continuously Variable Transmissions (CVTs), Dual-Clutch Transmissions (DCTs), and torque converters. Each technology offers distinct driving experiences, fuel efficiencies, and price points, allowing consumers to choose the one that suits their needs.

### Stars Without Borders-Indian Express Editorial

International Relations

### Key Takeaways

1. **Bombay High Court's Rejection:** The Bombay High Court has rejected a petition seeking a ban on Pakistani artists in India, highlighting its stance against measures that hinder cultural exchanges.



| Clear your doubts now.



2. **Promotion of Cultural Harmony:** The court emphasizes the importance of cultural harmony, unity, and peace over restrictions on Pakistani artists. It stresses that arts, music, sports, and culture transcend borders to promote peace.
3. **Cross-Border Cultural Cooperation:** The court advocates the view that these activities rise above nationality and are essential for tranquility and harmony, both within nations and between them.
4. **Petitioner's Request:** The petitioner, a cine worker, sought directives to ban Pakistani artists in India. The court's rejection underscores its commitment to open cultural exchange.
5. **Impact of Political Tensions:** Political tensions have negatively affected arts, culture, and sports between India and Pakistan in recent years, leading to bans and restrictions.
6. **Positive Impact of Exchanges:** Despite these tensions, the court recognizes the positive impact of cultural and sports exchanges. Examples include Pakistani cricket fans supporting Indian players and the popularity of Pakistani stars in India, offering hope for reconciliation and unity despite political divisions.

### Mains easy language

In a recent decision, the Bombay High Court made a strong statement in favor of maintaining cultural ties between India and Pakistan. The court rejected a petition that sought to ban Pakistani artists from working in India, emphasizing the importance of promoting cultural harmony and unity. It believes that arts, music, sports, and culture have the power to transcend national boundaries and contribute to peace.

The petitioner, a cine worker, had requested government ministries to prohibit the employment of Pakistani actors, musicians, and other artists in India. However, the court's rejection of this request underscores its commitment to preserving open cultural exchanges.

Over the past decade, political tensions between India and Pakistan have negatively impacted the world of arts, culture, and sports. This tension led to restrictions and bans on cross-border collaborations, affecting the cultural landscape of both nations. Despite these challenges, the court recognizes the positive impact of cultural and sports exchanges. These exchanges have the potential to bring people from different backgrounds together and offer hope for reconciliation and unity, even in the face of deep-seated political divisions.

In essence, the Bombay High Court's decision sends a strong message that cultural exchange and cooperation should be valued, as they can play a significant role in fostering peace and understanding between nations.

**25th October 2023**

**[World in flux, where India stands- Indian Express Editorial](#)**

### International Relations

#### Key Takeaways



| Clear your doubts now.



1. **Bipolarity Emerging in Global Politics:** Recent international developments, including BRICS and G20 summits, suggest a growing bipolarization of the world, largely driven by China's assertive behavior.
2. **Shift in India's Foreign Policy:** India's traditional approach of plurilateralism, as envisioned by S. Jaishankar, may need to adapt to the new dynamic as China fails to show due respect to India in multilateral forums like BRICS and the SCO.
3. **India's Dilemma:** India's dilemma lies in its dependence on multiple players in an increasingly polarized world. It seeks to strike a balance between its defense and energy dependency on Russia and its growing trade dependence on China.
4. **Rapprochement with the West:** In response to China's assertiveness, India has shown signs of getting closer to Western powers, as seen in its involvement in the Quad, trilateral partnerships, and infrastructure projects linking India to Europe via the Middle East.
5. **Trade and Dependency Concerns:** India's trade deficit with China has grown, reflecting its dependence on Chinese supply chains for key sectors, such as pharmaceuticals and electronics. The country's open stance toward Chinese investments is a testament to its complex interdependencies.

### Mains Synopsis:

The article delves into the shifting dynamics of India's foreign policy in an evolving global political landscape. Recent developments, particularly within BRICS and the G20, point towards an emerging bipolarity led by China's assertive stance. India's traditional approach of plurilateralism, as advocated by S. Jaishankar, may face challenges as China's behavior in multilateral forums becomes increasingly disrespectful to India.

India finds itself in a complex dilemma. It remains dependent on multiple players who belong to the crystallizing camps in global politics. While India seeks to maintain its traditional non-alignment and balanced approach, it also faces the realities of its dependence on Russia for energy and weapons and its growing trade reliance on China.

In response to China's assertiveness, India has shown signs of rapprochement with Western powers. This has been evidenced through its involvement in alliances like the Quad and participation in trilateral partnerships. Infrastructure projects connecting India to Europe via the Middle East underscore this evolving trend.

However, the article also highlights India's trade and dependency concerns. The growing trade deficit with China reveals its reliance on Chinese supply chains for key sectors of its economy. While India has scrutinized Chinese investments, it continues to remain open to them, reflecting the complexity of its interdependencies.

The future will determine whether India can maintain its position at the center of international affairs or if its multiple dependencies will influence its alignment in the emerging bipolar world.

### [Telangana's law under scanner: How preventive detention works-Indian Express Explained](#)

Polity

### Key Takeaways:

1. **Preventive Detention vs. Undertrial Detention:** Preventive detention in Telangana and other Indian states allows authorities to detain individuals on suspicion without a trial, in contrast to undertrial detention, which involves accused individuals awaiting trial.
2. **Constitutional Authority:** Despite the emphasis on individual liberty in the Indian Constitution, Article 22 provides a legal framework for preventive detention, allowing the state to suspend certain fundamental rights for this purpose.





3. **Laws Authorizing Preventive Detention:** Both central and state legislations, like the National Security Act and state-specific laws such as Telangana's PD Act, empower authorities to order preventive detention to address various local law and order issues.
4. **Powers of the State:** State or district magistrates can issue detention orders to maintain public order, with detentions lasting more than three months requiring approval from an Advisory Board. Detainees can challenge orders in court.
5. **Communication of Grounds:** The state must promptly communicate the grounds for detention to the detainee, and no additional grounds can be added later. The communication should be in a language the detainee understands.
6. **Limited Judicial Review:** Courts have restricted grounds for reviewing preventive detention cases, primarily focusing on whether the state's subjective satisfaction was valid and whether there was evidence of malice in the state's decision, often leading to challenges on technical issues in the process.

### Mains easy language

In Telangana, there's a controversial law called preventive detention that allows authorities to detain people based on suspicion without a trial. This is different from when someone is held before their trial, as here, individuals can be held even if they haven't committed a crime. The Indian Constitution, which strongly values individual rights, actually permits this kind of detention under Article 22.

This power to detain exists in both central and state laws. For instance, the National Security Act is one such central law, and Telangana has its own extensive law, known as the PD Act, which covers various offenses, from cybercrime to financial crimes.

When the state decides to use preventive detention, the district magistrate or the state can issue an order to detain a person in order to maintain public order. If this detention goes beyond three months, it requires approval from an Advisory Board, typically consisting of retired judges and bureaucrats. The detainee can challenge this detention in court.

The state has an obligation to promptly communicate the grounds for detention to the detainee, and they have the right to make a representation against the order. However, the review process by courts is quite limited, focusing on whether the state's "subjective satisfaction" was valid and whether there's any evidence of malice in the state's decision. Challenges are often based on technical issues, like delays in the Advisory Board's decision or the language used in communicating grounds to the detainee. This limited review has raised concerns about individual rights and due process in cases of preventive detention.

### [Behind Mumbai's Poor Air-Indian Express Explained](#)

#### Environment

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Geographical Advantage Fading** Mumbai's coastal location, which historically meant cleaner air due to sea breezes, is now seeing diminishing benefits as pollution levels rise. In the past two years, the city has faced prolonged periods of poor air quality, similar to Delhi's experiences,
2. **Wind Patterns' Role** Wind direction significantly impacts Mumbai's air quality. Coastal winds typically disperse pollutants, but disruptions in this pattern can lead to air quality issues.





3. **Last Year's Air Quality and La Nina** The unusually poor air quality last year resulted from prolonged disruptions in normal wind patterns, potentially influenced by the La Nina weather phenomenon. La Nina's effects on Mumbai's air quality are being studied.
4. **Current Air Quality Factors** Recent air quality problems are due to calmer winds as the monsoon withdrew and high temperatures in Mumbai. These conditions caused dust from construction projects in the region to be carried into the city.
5. **Long-Term Decline** Mumbai's air quality has steadily worsened over the past decade. Economic growth, increased vehicles, extensive construction, and higher emissions have contributed to this decline, leading to more frequent haze-like conditions.
6. **Mitigation Efforts Needed** To address Mumbai's deteriorating air quality, substantial efforts are required to control and reduce pollution sources. Without these measures, the city's air quality may continue to worsen, posing health risks to its residents, similar to Delhi's winter air quality issues.

### Mains easy language

In recent times, Mumbai's once cleaner air, courtesy of its coastal location and sea breezes, is losing its charm due to rising pollution. Over the past two years, the city has experienced prolonged stretches of poor air quality, reminiscent of Delhi's pollution woes. The crucial factor in determining Mumbai's air quality is the direction of the wind. Normally, coastal winds sweep pollutants away, but disruptions in this pattern can lead to air quality issues.

Last year, Mumbai's air quality suffered due to irregular wind patterns, possibly influenced by the La Nina weather phenomenon, which led to unusually cooler sea temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. The current dip in air quality, however, is a different story. Calmer winds coincided with the monsoon's departure and high temperatures in Mumbai, creating a temperature contrast between the city and nearby hilly regions. This led to winds carrying dust from construction sites into Mumbai.

The city's long-term air quality trends are concerning. Economic growth, an increase in vehicles, extensive construction, and higher emissions have contributed to a gradual deterioration in air quality. Haze-like conditions are now common on some days, a phenomenon that was once rare. To address this ongoing decline, Mumbai must prioritize efforts to control and reduce pollution sources. Without these measures, residents may continue to face health risks associated with poor air quality, similar to what Delhi has experienced during the winter months.

### [An India-Canada bonding that is in danger of snapping-The Hindu Editorial](#)

International Relations

### Key Takeaways

1. **Strong Diaspora Connection:** India and Canada have a significant and long-standing connection due to their Indian diaspora, which includes naturalized citizens, permanent residents, and various professionals.
2. **Population of Indian Origin:** Canada is home to over 1.86 million people of Indian origin, making up about 5% of its population.
3. **Global Compact for Safe Migration:** Both countries are signatories to the Global Compact for Safe Migration, which aims to facilitate migrants and diasporas in contributing to sustainable development.







4. **Ongoing Diplomatic Tensions:** The current diplomatic tensions are raising concerns about how these contributions will be enabled and for whom.
5. **Historical Ties and Apology:** Despite historical tensions, Canada has strong ties with the Sikh community and the Indian diaspora, exemplified by Canada's acknowledgment and apology for the Komagata Maru incident in 2016.
6. **Impact on People Ties:** The ongoing diplomatic tensions are affecting the status of migrants and the diaspora in both Canada and India, with reduced consular and visa services hindering travel and migration. Resolving these issues is vital for maintaining trust, loyalty, and achieving the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Mains easy language**

In simple terms, the article discusses the relationship between India and Canada and how recent diplomatic tensions between the two countries are affecting people who have settled in Canada from India, including students, professionals, and families.

Firstly, it highlights that a large number of Indians have made Canada their home, with over 1.86 million people of Indian origin living there, making up 5% of Canada's population. Many of them are naturalized citizens or permanent residents.

The article also mentions the Global Compact for Safe Migration, an agreement that both India and Canada have signed. This agreement is supposed to make it easier for migrants and their communities to contribute to the development of both countries. However, the current diplomatic issues are creating uncertainty for these communities.

Historically, there have been strong ties between Canada and the Indian diaspora, including the Sikh community. Canada even issued an official apology for past wrongs, emphasizing its commitment to multicultural values.

The article concludes by warning that if the current tensions continue, it could harm the trust and loyalty between the two nations and negatively impact the development goals outlined in the Global Compact for Safe Migration. To resolve these issues, both countries must renew their commitment to their citizens and diaspora members.

### **Mitigating tragedies in the Himalayan region-The Hindu Editorial**

Environment

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Himalayan Region Vulnerability:** The Himalayan region is highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).
2. **GLOF Risk:** The Indian Himalayan Region is particularly at risk, with millions of people living near glacial lakes, underscoring the importance of early warning systems.
3. **Recent GLOF in Sikkim:** A recent GLOF in Sikkim raised concerns about the region's preparedness for such events.
4. **Trigger for GLOF:** The Sikkim GLOF was likely triggered by the collapse of a significant mass of rock/moraine into a glacial lake, leading to flash floods.





5. **Challenges in Mitigation:** Mitigating GLOF risks is challenging due to high altitudes, inaccessibility, and difficulties in transporting equipment.
6. **Impact on Hill Communities:** GLOFs have a significant impact on downstream communities, causing damage to life, property, and livelihoods while altering the landscape.
7. **Government and Scientific Collaboration:** Collaboration between government and scientific institutions is essential to develop effective mitigation plans and early warning systems, reducing losses and enhancing stability in the region.

### Mains Easy language

The Himalayan region faces severe risks, such as glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), largely due to climate change. Recently, a GLOF in Sikkim highlighted these dangers. GLOFs can occur when a glacial lake bursts, causing flash floods, landslides, and damage downstream. Early warning systems are crucial, but installing them in these rugged, high-altitude areas is challenging.

One problem is that the exact triggers for these disasters can be hard to predict. The Sikkim GLOF was likely set off by a large rock and moraine collapse into a glacial lake, leading to the flood. Efforts to mitigate GLOFs have been tested worldwide, but they're labor-intensive and face difficulties like high altitude, inaccessibility, and equipment transportation issues.

The most affected by these disasters are the hill communities downstream. They have little time to react and suffer significant harm to lives, property, and livelihoods. These events also alter the landscape and local hydrology. Additionally, the region faces rising risks from various natural hazards.

A multi-disciplinary approach, involving various institutions and government bodies, is needed to tackle these challenges. Collaboration in data gathering, risk assessment, and early warning systems can significantly reduce the damage caused by GLOFs and bring stability to the lives of the people living in these vulnerable regions. It's essential to prioritize disaster and climate resilience principles in government policies and practices, along with private investments, while also addressing the development needs of these hill communities.

Hence emphasize the urgency of addressing GLOF risks in the Himalayan region to protect vulnerable communities and the environment.

### **How Olympic cities are selected-The Hindu Text and Context**

#### **Economy**

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **India's Olympic Ambitions:** India aims to host the Olympic Games in 2036, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai. This ambition adds to the growing competition among nations vying to host prestigious sporting events.
2. **Evolution of Host City Selection:** The selection process for Olympic host cities has evolved from a costly and lengthy approach to a more flexible, sustainable, and cost-effective one.





3. **New Selection Process Stages:** The new process includes two key stages: continuous dialogue and targeted dialogue. The continuous dialogue focuses on discussions with potential hosts, while the targeted dialogue involves more detailed discussions with the IOC's executive board.
4. **Sustainability and Cost-Effectiveness:** The new approach emphasizes sustainability and cost-effectiveness, encouraging the use of existing and temporary venues to reduce expenses.
5. **International Competition:** India joins other nations in bidding for the 2036 Games. Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey, and Poland are among the confirmed bidders, while several other countries are considering their bids.
6. **India's Hosting History:** India has limited experience in hosting multi-discipline international events, with the 2010 Commonwealth Games being the most recent. Hosting the 2036 Olympics represents a significant ambition for the country.

### Mains easy language

India has set its sights on hosting the Olympic Games in 2036, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi made this aspiration public during the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai. This move places India in competition with other nations eager to host these prestigious sporting events.

The way Olympic host cities are chosen has evolved. In the past, cities went through a costly and lengthy evaluation process, often resulting in excessive spending and controversies. But a more modern approach prioritizes flexibility, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness. This new process has two stages: continuous dialogue and targeted dialogue. The continuous dialogue involves discussions with potential host nations, while the targeted dialogue is more detailed, engaging the IOC's executive board.

Sustainability and cost-effectiveness are now crucial. Host nations are encouraged to use existing and temporary venues, ensuring that infrastructure is sustainable in the long term and reducing overall costs.

Apart from India, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey, and Poland have confirmed their interest in hosting the 2036 Games. Additionally, Egypt, Qatar, Italy, Canada, Germany, and other countries are considering their bids.

India's history of hosting multi-discipline international events is limited, with the 2010 Commonwealth Games being the most recent. Hosting the 2036 Olympics represents a significant ambition for the country, aiming to bring a major multi-discipline sporting event back to its shores

### [Understanding the components of a SIM card, its functions and working-The Hindu Text and Context](#)

Science and technology

### Key Takeaways

1. **What Is a SIM Card?**



| Clear your doubts now.



SIM cards are like ID cards for mobile devices, containing critical information such as the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) and a unique authentication key.

## 2. How Does a SIM Card Work?

These small cards adhere to international standards, connecting with a mobile device's data connectors, facilitating network connections and calls.

## 3. Evolution of SIM Cards

SIM cards have evolved over time, adapting in both size and architecture. The transition to 3G networks separated hardware (UICC) from software (USIM), ensuring compatibility with various network generations.

## 4. Introduction of eSIM

eSIMs represent the latest advancement. Permanently installed in devices during manufacturing, they can be reprogrammed remotely by network operators, eliminating the need for physical card replacement.

## 5. Advantages of eSIM

eSIMs reduce environmental impact by eliminating physical cards and enhance security by preventing unauthorized access to SIM applications.

## 6. Challenges with eSIM

Some users may find eSIM setup challenging, especially in regions where subscribers program eSIMs themselves. Additionally, eSIMs might potentially be used to track user data in the absence of data privacy laws.

### Mains Easy Language

In simple terms, a SIM card, which stands for Subscriber Identification Module, is like your phone's ID card. It's a tiny chip that holds important information about you and your connection to a mobile network. This chip contains a special number known as the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) that identifies you to the network, and a secret code to keep your connection secure.

When you make a call or use the internet on your phone, the SIM card is the one making it all possible. It's like the passport that lets you enter the cellular network city. It tells the network who you are and whether you have permission to make calls and use data.

Over time, SIM cards have become smaller and smarter, adapting to changes in technology. They used to be both the hardware and software, but now, they are separated into a physical part called the Universal Integrated Circuit Card (UICC) and a software part known as the Universal SIM (USIM). This separation makes them work with older and newer network generations.

The newest kid on the block is the eSIM, which stands for embedded SIM. It's like a digital SIM card permanently built into your phone. You don't need to change it physically when you switch networks; the network operator can reprogram it for you. This is more eco-friendly, as it reduces the need for plastic SIM cards.





But there are some challenges. Setting up an eSIM can be tricky for those not familiar with tech, and in some places, it could potentially be used to track your data without strong privacy laws. So, while SIM cards may be small, they play a big role in keeping us connected in the mobile world.

### [What separates classical and quantum chaos? - The Hindu Science](#)

Science and Technology

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Classical Chaos vs. Quantum Chaos:** Classical chaotic systems, despite being governed by deterministic physical laws, exhibit unpredictable behavior due to sensitivity to initial conditions. Quantum mechanics, on the other hand, operates probabilistically and does not display chaos in the traditional sense.
2. **Butterfly Effect:** The "butterfly effect" illustrates the idea that small changes in initial conditions can lead to significant and unpredictable outcomes in chaotic systems, as seen in weather prediction.
3. **Lyapunov Time:** Predictability in chaotic systems depends on factors like the accuracy of initial conditions, tolerance for uncertainty, and the Lyapunov time, which varies based on the system's dynamics.
4. **Rydberg Atom's Role:** Rydberg atoms, by blurring the boundary between classical and quantum physics, serve as a bridge for studying quantum chaos in classically chaotic systems.
5. **Energy Level Distribution:** In quantum chaos, the regularities in the distribution of energy levels distinguish chaotic quantum systems from non-chaotic ones, where energy levels are randomly distributed.
6. **Growing Research Field:** Quantum chaos is a rapidly expanding research area with implications in fields like thermalization, transport, quantum information, and the understanding of black hole mechanics.

#### Mains easy language

This article delves into the fascinating world of chaos in both classical and quantum physics, aiming to explain the key differences and provide some intriguing insights. In the classical realm, we encounter systems governed by precise physical laws, but they often behave unpredictably due to their sensitivity to initial conditions. This phenomenon is famously known as the "butterfly effect," where tiny changes can lead to significant, sometimes unforeseeable, outcomes, like in weather forecasting.

Predicting how long we can foresee the future behavior of a chaotic system relies on factors such as how well we know its current state and the system's tolerance for uncertainty. This predictability duration is also influenced by something called the "Lyapunov time," which varies based on the system's dynamics. For instance, chaotic electrical circuits have a Lyapunov time of about 1 millisecond, while weather systems offer a few days of predictability.

In the quantum world, things take an interesting turn. Quantum mechanics, which applies to both tiny particles and larger objects, is not chaotic in the same way as classical systems. This is because subatomic particles don't have well-defined, point-like locations in space. Quantum chaos, a specialized branch of quantum physics, explores the dynamics of systems that exhibit chaos in the classical sense.





One unique bridge between these two realms is the Rydberg atom, which, when excited to high energy levels, behaves like a hybrid, connecting classical and quantum physics. Studying chaotic behavior in Rydberg atoms can offer valuable insights into the uncharted territory of quantum chaos, a rapidly growing field with broad implications in fields like thermalization, transport, quantum information, and the mysterious mechanics of black holes.

**26th October 2023**

### **LS Ethics Committee: its constitution, members- Indian Express Explained**

#### **Polity**

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Lok Sabha Ethics Committee:** Responsible for monitoring members' moral and ethical conduct and investigating cases of misconduct, it was established as an ad hoc entity over two decades ago and made permanent in 2015.
2. **Committee Leadership:** The current head of the Ethics Committee is Vinod Kumar Sonkar, a BJP MP from Kaushambi, with members from various political parties.
3. **Establishment of Ethics Panels:** The concept of ethics panels for the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was first discussed during a 1996 Presiding Officers' Conference.
4. **Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee:** Established in 1997 to oversee members' conduct and cases of misconduct. It follows rules similar to those of the Committee of Privileges.
5. **Lok Sabha Ethics Committee History:** A study group recommended the establishment of an Ethics Committee for the Lok Sabha in 1997, but it was only formed during the 13th Lok Sabha in 2000.
6. **2005 Cash-for-Query Case:** In 2005, 10 Lok Sabha MPs and one Rajya Sabha MP were expelled for agreeing to ask questions in Parliament for money, following investigations by special committees in both houses.
7. **Complaint Procedure:** Any person can lodge a complaint against a member through a Lok Sabha MP, accompanied by evidence and a non-frivolous affidavit. The Speaker can refer complaints to the Ethics Committee for consideration.

#### **Main Synopsis:**

The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, initially established as an ad hoc entity more than two decades ago and later granted permanent status in 2015, plays a crucial role in monitoring the moral and ethical conduct of members within the Indian Parliament. Currently chaired by BJP's Vinod Kumar Sonkar, this committee is composed of representatives from various political parties. The concept of ethics panels for both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha emerged during a 1996 Presiding Officers' Conference, eventually leading to the establishment of the Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee in 1997. However, it took until the 13th Lok Sabha in 2000 for the Lok Sabha to form its own Ethics Committee.

One significant case that garnered widespread attention in 2005 involved the expulsion of several Members of Parliament (MPs) who had accepted money in exchange for posing questions in Parliament. Special committees were set up in both houses to investigate this cash-for-query scandal, leading to the expulsion of MPs found guilty of misconduct.

Complaints against MPs can be initiated by any individual through a Lok Sabha MP, accompanied by supporting evidence and a non-frivolous affidavit. The Speaker possesses the authority to refer such complaints to the Ethics Committee. The committee, in turn, conducts an initial inquiry before offering recommendations. These recommendations are presented to the Speaker for potential consideration in the House, and there may also be a half-hour discussion on the report's findings.

In the realm of parliamentary oversight, the Ethics Committee's responsibilities sometimes intersect with those of the Privileges Committee. The Privileges Committee aims to safeguard the freedom, authority, and dignity of Parliament and is typically tasked with handling more severe allegations, particularly those related to corruption. This clear division of responsibilities ensures that misconduct within the Indian Parliament is effectively addressed and scrutinised.





## Balance of green power- Indian Express Editorial

### Environment

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Complex Energy Transition:** Recent developments in India's energy sector, including strike notices by Coal India's unions and the government's plans to build new coal power plants, highlight the complexities of the country's energy transition.
2. **Different Waves of Power Plant Construction:** India's power plant construction has undergone different waves, with the early phase driven by central public sector units (PSUs) and the later phase dominated by private promoters after the Electricity Act of 2003.
3. **Shift Towards Renewable Energy (RE):** The next wave of power plant construction is expected to focus on renewable energy (RE) assets, with solar and wind projected to constitute a significant portion of total generation capacity by 2030.
4. **Regional Concentration of RE Generation:** The regional consequences of this RE build-out are becoming apparent, with a concentration of RE generation in western and southern states, leaving coal-rich states facing fiscal challenges due to declining coal royalties and increased power procurement costs.
5. **Challenges of Energy Storage Technologies:** The implementation of grid-scale energy storage technologies is not yet widespread, leading coal-rich states to import power from other regions, increasing inter-state financial transfers and impacting their budget deficits.
6. **Fiscal Federalism Disputes:** India's fiscal federalism involves frequent disputes over revenue sources like coal royalties and the power sector, which could hinder the country's energy transition if not addressed.
7. **Empowering RE-Poor States:** To ensure a successful energy transition, there is a need for policies that empower RE-poor states, enabling them to benefit from the transition and balancing regional developmentalism.

#### Mains in Easy Language

India's energy sector is facing a critical juncture with recent developments highlighting the complexities of its energy transition. Different waves of power plant construction have shaped the sector, with early phases driven by central public sector units (PSUs) and later phases dominated by private promoters. The upcoming wave of power plant construction is expected to prioritize renewable energy (RE) assets, particularly solar and wind. However, the regional consequences of this RE build-out are becoming evident, with a concentration of RE generation in western and southern states, leaving coal-rich states facing fiscal challenges due to declining coal royalties and increased power procurement costs.

The lack of widespread implementation of grid-scale energy storage technologies means that coal-rich states will need to import more power from other regions, leading to increased inter-state financial transfers and impacting their budget deficits. India's fiscal federalism involves frequent disputes over revenue sources such as coal royalties and the power sector, which could pose challenges to the country's energy transition if not addressed.

To ensure a successful energy transition, it is imperative to empower RE-poor states, enabling them to benefit from the transition and balancing regional developmentalism. This could be achieved through policies such as preferential lending for RE projects, greater participation in federal power negotiations, explicit financial transfers to RE-poor states, and collaborative industrial policies. The key is to ensure that the energy transition does not become yet another drain of resources from India's least developed to its most developed regions.

## TO OPEN THE CAMPUS- Indian Express Editorial

### Polity

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Internationalization of Higher Education:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focuses on internationalization as a pivotal aspect of higher education reform in India. This includes attracting foreign faculty, researchers, and students, along with facilitating joint and dual degrees with foreign institutions.





2. **Challenges in Indian Higher Education:** India has a vast number of colleges and institutions but varying levels of quality. Private universities have flourished, but there's a need to attract more foreign students to Indian institutions.
3. **Work Opportunities for Foreign Students:** There's currently no provision for foreign students to gain work experience in India after completing their degrees, despite many seeking such opportunities in India's corporate and startup sectors.
4. **Indian Companies and Talent:** Indian companies, particularly tech and services firms, benefit from foreign employees with experience in India. They serve as a "cultural bridge" and contribute to understanding Indian markets and regulations.
5. **Policy Changes Needed:** Expanding provisions for student work visas can amplify the benefits of internationalization. This should include scholarships for foreign students, allowing them to gain field experience in India.
6. **Aging Population and Labor Challenges:** India's population growth is slowing, leading to an aging workforce. To sustain growth, India can learn from countries offering post-study student work visas to address labor deficits.
7. **Exporting Higher Education:** India aims to promote higher education as an export sector, with elite institutions like IIMs and IITs expanding abroad. The need for changes in India's student visa regime is essential to attract more international students and faculty.

### Mains in Easy Language

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the internationalization of India's higher education sector, aiming to elevate the standards of Indian university education by facilitating reforms such as an overhaul of curricula, attracting foreign students, faculty, and researchers, and enabling joint or dual degrees with foreign institutions. Despite the proliferation of private universities, there remains a challenge in attracting foreign students to Indian institutions, who seek work opportunities in India after completing their degrees.

Foreign students can play a crucial role in bridging the gap between their home countries and India, fostering better cultural understanding and facilitating smoother operations for international companies in India. To fully realize these advantages, there's a need to expand provisions for student work visas, which can also include scholarships for foreigners coming to India. However, concerns that foreign students might take jobs from Indian counterparts are largely unfounded, given India's impending demographic shift towards an aging population. Learning from countries that offer post-study student work visas, India can address labor deficits and sustain its growth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has designated higher education as an export sector, with Indian institutions expanding abroad, and it's crucial to amend India's student visa regime to align with this goal. This involves various government ministries working together, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Education, to create a supportive framework. Indian multinational companies should also advocate for changes in student visas, directly and through business chambers, to support the broader objective of internationalizing higher education in India.

### [A Taxing Issue- Indian Express Editorial](#)

#### Economy

##### Key Takeaways:

1. **Recent GST Notices:** Both central and state GST authorities have issued a flurry of demand notices to companies across various sectors, including insurance, gaming, and service providers.
2. **Nature of Notices:** These notices mainly pertain to the initial period following the shift to the GST regime, covering issues such as underpayment of tax, incorrect input tax credit, and reconciliation differences between returns and financials.
3. **Concerns Raised:** Concerns have arisen due to the multiplicity of notices, the lack of a uniform process, and the absence of coordination between central and state tax authorities. Some notices have been issued based on media reports.
4. **GST System Challenges:** The GST system has faced ongoing challenges, including tax evasion through fake input tax credit cases, highlighting the need for simplifying tax rules, reducing uncertainty, and easing compliance burdens.







5. **Impact of Ongoing Litigation:** Failure to address these issues can result in more litigation, with significant amounts under dispute in the case of direct taxes, such as corporate and personal income tax.

### Mains in Easy Language

In recent times, both central and state GST authorities have been actively issuing demand notices to companies operating in various sectors, raising concerns regarding the nature and timing of these notices. Many of these notices pertain to the early stages of the GST regime, a period marked by considerable uncertainty and challenges. Issues highlighted in these notices include underpayment of tax, incorrect input tax credit, and discrepancies in the reconciliation between returns and financials.

The concerns surrounding these notices stem from their sheer volume, the absence of a standardized process, and the apparent lack of coordination between central and state tax authorities. Some notices have even been issued based on media reports, contributing to the sense of inconsistency and unpredictability.

The GST system has experienced significant challenges, including tax evasion through fake input tax credit cases, leading to substantial revenue losses. To ensure the system's effectiveness and compliance, there's a need for simplifying tax rules, reducing ambiguity, and lightening the compliance burden on businesses. Failure to address these issues may result in more litigation, particularly given the significant amounts under dispute in direct taxes, including corporate and personal income tax.

### [Women, marriage and labour market participation-The Hindu Editorial](#)

#### Economics

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Global Challenge:** Female labor force participation remains low worldwide, with only 47.3% of women participating in the workforce in 2022, impacting both economic progress and gender equality.
2. **Marriage's Impact:** After marriage, women often face obstacles that reduce their labor force participation, including limited education, family obligations, and societal expectations.
3. **Diverse Influences:** Factors such as religion, caste, location, household wealth, and societal norms affect women's decisions to participate in the labor market, particularly for married women.
4. **Education's Role:** Women with lower literacy skills are more likely to enter the workforce after marriage, while well-educated women tend to have lower participation rates.
5. **Economic Disparities:** Gender-based societal constraints result in disparities in career choices, income, age at marriage, and fertility decisions, with agriculture being the dominant sector for female employment in India.
6. **Solutions Needed:** To increase female labor force participation, improving access to day-care services, implementing government initiatives, enhancing work settings, providing secure transportation options, and expanding part-time job opportunities are crucial steps to empower women in the workforce.

#### Mains easy Language

In this article, we're talking about how women, marriage, and jobs are all connected. When women work, it's good for their financial situation and their say in household decisions. But globally, not enough women are working. In 2022, only about 47% of women around the world were part of the workforce, and it's even lower in developing countries like India.

Marriage often makes things more complicated. After getting married, many women find it challenging to keep their jobs. This is because they might not have as much education, and they might have more family responsibilities. There's also this idea that society doesn't always approve of women working outside of their homes after marriage, and that can make it harder.





A lot of things play a role in why women work or don't. This includes their religion, where they live, how much money their family has, and what their society thinks about women working.

Education is another big factor. Women with less education are more likely to work after they get married, while those with more education tend to work less. In India, many women still work in agriculture.

So, what can we do about this? We need better access to child care, so women can work without worrying about their kids. The government can help by providing services like daycare. Plus, we need workplaces that are more friendly to women and offer secure transportation options. By doing these things, we can encourage more women, especially married women, to join the workforce and have a stronger say in their lives.

### **Unhealthy urban India must get into street fight mode-The Hindu Editorial**

Sociology

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Urban Health Challenges:** India's urban population is rapidly growing, but cities are struggling to meet health, environmental, and equity targets.
2. **Diverse Health Risks:** Urban residents in India face a multitude of health risks, including high levels of air and noise pollution, limited green spaces, and poor access to sidewalks and parks.
3. **Rising Cardiometabolic Diseases:** Cardiometabolic diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes, are increasing due to a lack of physical activity.
4. **Urban Transformation is Essential:** Transforming the design of urban environments and provisioning systems is crucial for public health.
5. **Social Inequalities in Cities:** The legacy of colonial urban provisioning systems in India exacerbates social inequalities, leading to disparities in health risks and outcomes.
6. **High-Level Policy Focus:** Global policy frameworks like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals emphasize the importance of addressing health in urban planning.
7. **Comprehensive Health Improvement:** While clean energy and electric mobility investments are essential, simultaneous changes in provisioning systems and active transportation promotion can maximize health benefits in Indian cities.

#### **Mains easy Language**

In India's bustling cities, there's a hidden health crisis. As the urban population soars, cities are falling short on key health and environmental standards. People living in these urban areas are facing a range of health risks: polluted air and relentless noise, a lack of green spaces, limited access to walkable sidewalks, and outdated, pollution-causing transportation. This alarming mix significantly amplifies health risks, particularly when it comes to heart disease and diabetes, known as cardiometabolic diseases. Physical activity could be a lifeline to mitigate these risks, but urban India is in the midst of an epidemic of these disorders.

The key to tackling this urban health challenge lies in transforming our cities. Our provisioning systems – those that provide food, energy, transportation, housing, green spaces, water, and waste management – play a central role in our well-being. Dysfunctional provisioning systems are a major source of global water use and CO2 emissions and are linked to millions of premature deaths each year. In India, many of these systems perpetuate social inequalities based on class, race, age, migration, and disability status, leading to drastic health disparities.



| Clear your doubts now.



This is not just a local problem; it's a global one. To truly make a difference, we need to rethink how we design our cities. High-level international policies emphasize the importance of including health in urban planning. We can make significant strides by investing in clean energy and electric transportation. But, these improvements should go hand-in-hand with changes in other provisioning systems and the promotion of safe walking and biking lanes. It's time for a holistic approach to urban policy that prioritizes public health, as unhealthy diets, lack of exercise, and air pollution pose more significant risks to health than drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or accidents. It's time for cities in India to go into "street fight mode" to protect the well-being of their citizens.

### Warming ties-The Hindu Editorial

International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Unprecedented Diplomatic Engagement:** Bhutan's Foreign Minister visited China, a historic first, as the two countries don't have diplomatic ties. This marks a significant shift in Bhutan's foreign policy.
2. **Resumption of Boundary Talks:** The visit aimed to restart boundary discussions that had been dormant for over seven years. Positive outcomes were observed, with both nations signing a cooperation agreement for boundary delineation.
3. **China's Diplomatic Proposals:** China proposed establishing diplomatic relations with Bhutan, raising concerns in India due to its close ties with Bhutan and the potential impact on regional dynamics.
4. **India's Strategic Approach:** India should align strategies with Bhutan, as evidenced by the effectiveness of this approach during the 2017 Doklam crisis. The focus should be on safeguarding its interests while addressing Bhutan's concerns, particularly in the western region.
5. **Trusting Bhutan's Intentions:** Bhutan's dependence on India and their strong historical ties suggest close consultation between the two countries. India must trust Bhutan's commitment to safeguarding India's security interests while balancing its own in any final agreement. This trust is vital for the enduring friendship between the two nations.

#### Mains easy language

In an extraordinary move, Bhutan's Foreign Minister visited China, a country with which Bhutan has no diplomatic relations. The main reason for this unprecedented visit was to rekindle discussions on their shared border, which had been stalled for over seven years. Surprisingly, the talks produced positive results, with both nations signing an agreement to delineate their boundary. However, China went a step further and suggested establishing formal diplomatic relations with Bhutan, a proposal that has raised eyebrows in India, given its close relationship with Bhutan and the potential impact on the region.

For India, it's essential to adopt a strategic approach, understanding that pressuring Bhutan might not be the most effective tactic. The 2017 Doklam crisis taught us that India's interests are better served when working closely with Bhutan, rather than expecting compliance. India should ensure that any border deal addresses Bhutan's concerns in the north while safeguarding its own interests in the west, especially the critical Siliguri corridor.

Trust plays a crucial role in this relationship. Bhutan's unique dependence on India suggests that they would have consulted with New Delhi about their engagement with China. India must trust that Bhutan will consider the interests of both nations as they work towards a final agreement, preserving the enduring friendship that has defined their relationship.

### How big is the gender gap in earnings? - The Hindu Text and Context



| Clear your doubts now.



## Economics

### Key Takeaways

1. **Persistent Gender Earnings Gap:** Men consistently earn more than women, with the largest gap in self-employment (men earn 2.8 times more). This earnings gap remains a persistent issue in the Indian job market.
2. **Changing Trends:** The earnings gap has widened for self-employed workers but narrowed for regular wage workers. In 2023, male regular wage workers earned 24% more than females, down from 34% in previous years.
3. **Disparities in Work Hours:** Women work fewer hours than men in all employment types. The largest work-hour gap is among self-employed workers, where men work 50% more hours.
4. **Earnings per Hour:** The gender earnings gap reduces when considering hourly wages, especially for regular wage workers. In 2023, this gap fell to 4%, down from 11% in 2019.
5. **Influence of Work Hours:** Women's work hours are not solely a matter of choice but are influenced by societal norms and domestic responsibilities.
6. **Policy Implications:** Policies should aim to remove barriers limiting women's work hours. This includes workplace accommodations like childcare facilities and extended maternity leave. Transforming traditional gender norms is vital for achieving gender equality in earnings and work hours.

### Mains Easy language

In India, men are consistently earning more than women across various job types, with the widest gap found among self-employed individuals, where men earn nearly three times more than women. This income disparity remains an ongoing challenge.

Recent years have seen some shifts in this pattern. The income gap has narrowed for regular wage workers, with men now earning 24% more than women in this category, down from 34% in previous years. However, it's a different story for self-employed individuals, where the gap has actually widened.

One critical factor contributing to this earnings gap is the difference in working hours. Women tend to work fewer hours each week, regardless of the type of job they hold. Self-employed men work 50% more hours than their female counterparts. These variations in work hours are a significant part of why women earn less.

When we look at earnings on an hourly basis, the gender gap decreases, particularly among regular wage workers. In 2023, this gap fell to 4% from 11% in 2019, suggesting that women are approaching parity with men when it comes to hourly earnings.

However, it's important to recognize that women's work hours aren't solely a matter of choice. Societal norms and domestic responsibilities often limit their availability for work. To address these issues, policies should focus on eliminating these barriers, whether through workplace accommodations like childcare facilities and extended maternity leave, or by challenging traditional gender norms that place a disproportionate burden of domestic responsibilities on women. These changes are crucial for achieving true gender equality in both earnings and work hours.

[Deep under Antarctic ice, an ancient landscape-The Hindu Science](#)



| Clear your doubts now.

**Key Takeaways**

1. **Antarctica's Lush Past:** Antarctica, typically associated with ice and snow, was once a thriving environment with rivers, forests, and diverse life forms.
2. **Satellite and Radar Revelations:** Recent advancements in technology, such as satellite observations and ice-penetrating radar, have unveiled a hidden ancient landscape beneath Antarctica's ice.
3. **Massive Ancient Landscape:** The discovered landscape, located in East Antarctica's Wilkes Land region, rivals the size of Belgium, with an estimated age of at least 14 million years and possibly as ancient as 34 million years.
4. **Warmer Climates of the Past:** The ancient environment was considerably warmer, potentially resembling climates ranging from present-day Patagonia to more tropical conditions. Evidence like ancient palm tree pollen suggests a different climate and possible wildlife.
5. **Beneath Thick Ice:** The ice above this ancient landscape is 2.2-3 kilometers thick, making it less explored than even the surface of Mars.
6. **Unlocking Ancient Mysteries:** To learn more about this buried world, researchers propose drilling through the ice to obtain core samples, revealing evidence of the ancient flora and fauna, similar to what's been done in Greenland.
7. **Data Sources:** The study relied on satellite observations and ice-penetrating radar data, uncovering a landscape that has been shaped by geological processes over a vast period of time.

**Mains easy language**

Deep beneath the icy wasteland of Antarctica lies a remarkable secret: an ancient, hidden world that predates the current frozen landscape. Thanks to cutting-edge technology, scientists have unveiled this prehistoric terrain, offering a glimpse into Antarctica's lush past. It's a landscape forgotten by time, once teeming with rivers, forests, and life.

Situated in East Antarctica's Wilkes Land region, this ancient expanse covers an area about the size of Belgium. Surprisingly, it dates back at least 14 million years, possibly reaching as far as 34 million years when Antarctica transitioned into its icy state. The climate in this ancient realm was significantly warmer than today, similar to present-day Patagonia or even tropical climates. Fossilized palm tree pollen found nearby hints at a different world.

The thickness of the ice covering this lost landscape is staggering, measuring between 2.2 to 3 kilometers. To unlock the mysteries of this ancient realm, scientists suggest drilling through the ice to access core samples that can reveal the long-buried flora and fauna.

This discovery challenges our perception of Antarctica and underscores the dynamic history of our planet. It's a reminder that Earth's climate has undergone dramatic transformations over millions of years, and this hidden world is a remarkable time capsule of the past, waiting to reveal its secrets to those who dare to uncover them.

**[The legality of using white phosphorus-The Hindu Editorial](#)****Key Takeaways**



1. **Allegations of White Phosphorus Use:** Israel is accused of using white phosphorus munitions in Gaza, both recently by Human Rights Watch and during the 2008-2009 Gaza War.
2. **Israeli Government's Response:** Initially, Israel denied using white phosphorus in Gaza but later acknowledged limited use in 2009 for signaling and marking.
3. **White Phosphorus Overview:** White phosphorus has military uses, creating smoke screens and incendiary devices, but its use in populated areas raises ethical concerns.
4. **International Legal Framework:** White phosphorus use in conflict zones is regulated by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and international humanitarian law, focusing on safeguarding civilians.
5. **Protocol III and Incendiary Weapons:** Protocol III under the CCW defines incendiary weapons, with exemptions for certain munitions. White phosphorus munitions primarily serve illumination and smoke-screen purposes.
6. **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):** White phosphorus, while toxic, is not covered by the CWC when used as an incendiary weapon rather than a chemical warfare agent.
7. **Strengthening Protocol III:** Enhancing Protocol III is important, addressing legal and procedural concerns, providing clarity for enforcement, and emphasizing the importance of upholding international law to protect civilians and the environment.

### Mains Easy Language

In recent years, Israel has faced allegations of using white phosphorus munitions in Gaza, drawing international attention. Such claims are not new, as similar accusations were made during the 2008-2009 Gaza War. Israel initially denied these allegations but later admitted to using white phosphorus in 2009. They claimed it was only used in areas uninhabited by civilians, for signalling and marking.

White phosphorus is a substance with multiple military applications. It can create dense smoke screens to hide troops and equipment during combat. Additionally, it's used in incendiary devices like grenades and artillery shells, which can lead to devastating fires, posing a significant threat to both people and infrastructure. However, using white phosphorus in populated areas raises ethical concerns due to its potential to cause severe burns and suffering.

International law comes into play when discussing the use of white phosphorus in conflict zones. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) imposes restrictions on incendiary weapons, including white phosphorus, with the aim of safeguarding civilians. International humanitarian law governs its use in armed conflicts, emphasizing principles like distinction and proportionality.

Strengthening Protocol III under the CCW is crucial to address the legal and procedural issues surrounding white phosphorus use. It emphasizes the importance of upholding international law to minimize harm to both civilians and the environment. Legal breaches can lead to global condemnation, investigations, and potential prosecution for war crimes. Strengthening the protocol would create binding agreements for states, preventing them from exploiting legal loopholes and making violations easier to identify, ultimately promoting a safer and more ethical approach in warfare.

**27th October 2023**

**[The Biden pragmatism-Indian Express Editorial](#)**

### International Relations

#### Key Takeaways:



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1. **Challenges Amidst Global Overstretch:** The Israel-Palestine conflict raises concerns about the US's ability to handle multiple global challenges simultaneously, especially given growing collaboration between Beijing, Moscow, and Tehran.
2. **US Demonstrated Capabilities:** The US has demonstrated its capability to counter Russian and Chinese challenges in Europe and Asia, with recent successes in rallying support in Europe and expanding military support in Asia.
3. **Domestic Foreign Policy Debates:** There is an ongoing domestic debate in the US regarding foreign policy, including issues like support for Ukraine and the focus on countering China versus addressing other global challenges.
4. **Resilience Amidst Domestic Debate:** Despite domestic debates, the US's strategic resilience should not be underestimated. It has a strong bipartisan political consensus on defending Israel and an enduring foreign policy establishment.
5. **Economic and Military Strength:** The US's share of global GDP remains significant, challenging narratives of decline. It also maintains military superiority and has the ability to project power globally.
6. **Diplomatic Influence and Alliances:** Diplomatically, the US wields significant influence in shaping regional landscapes, as demonstrated in the Israel-Gaza conflict. The US's system of alliances is a significant advantage, and the Biden administration is strengthening alliances to enhance the Asian deterrent against China.
7. **Pragmatic Foreign Policy Approach:** US foreign policy is pragmatic and emphasizes core interests over ideology, as demonstrated by its willingness to work with countries with diverse political systems that support the UN Charter.

### Mains in Easy Language:

The recent escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict has ignited concerns about the United States' ability to effectively manage simultaneous global challenges. The growing strategic collaboration between Beijing, Moscow, and Tehran, alongside domestic debates over foreign policy, has raised doubts about the US's capacity to address crises in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. However, several factors indicate that underestimating the US's strategic resilience would be unwise. The US maintains a strong bipartisan consensus on defending Israel, and its foreign policy establishment has a history of moderating domestic debates to pursue essential national interests.

Contrary to claims of US decline, the nation's share of global GDP remains substantial, while China's ascent may be overstated due to its economic slowdown. The US retains military superiority and can project power globally.

Diplomatically, the US wields significant influence in shaping regional landscapes, exemplified by its role in the Israel-Gaza conflict. The structure of great power conflict works in favor of the US, as both Russia and China are eager to negotiate separate deals based on terms rather than ideology.

One of the US's greatest strengths is its system of alliances, which surpasses those sought by Russia and China. The Biden administration is reinforcing these alliances to enhance deterrence against China and is adopting a pragmatic approach that focuses on core interests over ideology in international relations.

While the challenges facing the US are complex, Washington possesses the will, resources, and manoeuvring room to navigate the geopolitical landscape effectively.

### [Warming Up, Breaking The Ice- Indian Express Editorial](#)

#### Environment

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **India's Role in G20 Summit:** India has successfully hosted the G20 Summit and demonstrated its ability to foster consensus among both the Global North and the Global South.
2. **Arctic Climate Crisis:** The Arctic is warming at an alarming rate, risking catastrophic climate tipping points and releasing vast amounts of stored carbon into the atmosphere.





3. **Global South Impact:** Climate change, including the melting Arctic, disproportionately affects the Global South, with links to extreme weather events like the Indian summer monsoon.
4. **Need for Collective Action:** The interconnectedness of global ecosystems highlights the need for consensus-based collective action to mitigate climate impacts in the Arctic.
5. **Geopolitical and Development Challenges:** Rapid development and growing geopolitical tensions are exacerbating the Arctic's climate challenge, with some Arctic countries planning oil and gas development despite environmental concerns.
6. **Arctic Council Challenges:** The suspension of the Arctic Council due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine has made it difficult to hold countries accountable and monitor Arctic activities contributing to change.
7. **India's Bridge-Building Role:** India's ability to bridge divides between the Global North and the Global South, as seen at the G20 Summit, offers potential for united efforts to safeguard global ecosystems, particularly the Arctic.

### **Mains in easy language:**

India's role in hosting the G20 Summit has surprised many by showcasing its capacity to foster consensus among the world's major powers. This capability is crucial, given the pressing issue of the Arctic's rapid warming, which poses a significant threat to global climate stability.

The Arctic is warming at an alarming rate, with consequences including the loss of sea ice and the thawing of permafrost. If these trends continue, they could result in the release of vast amounts of stored carbon, equivalent to the cumulative emissions of the entire United States. Such an outcome could trigger multiple catastrophic and irreversible climate tipping points.

Notably, the impact of climate change in the Arctic has interconnected consequences for the Global South. Recent research highlights a correlation between melting Arctic sea ice and extreme rainfall events during the Indian summer monsoon, which plays a vital role in South Asia's agriculture and livelihoods. This interconnectedness underscores the need for consensus-based collective action to address Arctic climate impacts.

However, rapid development and growing geopolitical tensions are exacerbating the climatic challenge in the Arctic. Some Arctic countries are planning oil and gas development projects despite growing concerns, and the governance mechanism for this vital global commons, the Arctic Council, has been suspended due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

India, with its ability to bridge historical divides and align positions between the Global North and the Global South, has an opportunity to play a crucial role in Arctic governance. Its active involvement as a member of the Arctic Council, voicing the concerns of the Global South, could push for an end to further Arctic exploitation.

As India takes on a greater leadership role in the Global South, it has the potential to lead reforms in Arctic governance and prioritize climate protection on the global Arctic policy agenda. The success of India's bridge-building efforts and its ability to generate unanimity will be essential in reforming Arctic governance and addressing the Arctic climate crisis.

### **APAAR ID- Indian Express Explained**

#### **Polity**

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **'One Nation, One Student ID' Initiative:** The Indian government's 'One nation, One Student ID' initiative, aligned with the National Education Policy of 2020, aims to provide a unique, lifelong student ID for tracking academic progress.
2. **APAAR System Introduction:** The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) is a part of this initiative, designed to create a special ID system for all students in India from a young age.
3. **Gateway to Digilocker:** APAAR also serves as a gateway to Digilocker, a digital platform for securely storing academic documents and achievements.
4. **Educational Benefits:** The initiative assists state governments in tracking educational data, such as literacy and dropout rates, to facilitate improvements. It also aims to reduce fraud and duplication of educational certificates.







5. **Efficient Data Transfer:** The use of a unique APAAR ID linked to an Academic Bank Credit (ABC) allows for seamless data transfer when students change schools, eliminating the need for physical documents or transfer certificates.
6. **Data Privacy Assurance:** While concerns about data privacy and sharing of Aadhaar details exist, officials emphasize that the Aadhaar number is only used for verification and is not shared during registration, ensuring data security and privacy.

### Mains in Easy Language:

The 'One nation, One Student ID' initiative, stemming from India's National Education Policy of 2020, introduces the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR). This system aims to provide students in India with a unique, lifelong ID for tracking academic progress from pre-primary education to higher education. It also serves as a gateway to Digilocker, a digital storage system for academic documents.

APAAR's benefits include assisting state governments in tracking literacy and dropout rates, fostering educational improvements, and reducing fraud and duplication of educational certificates. It relies on a unique APAAR ID linked to an Academic Bank Credit (ABC) that holds information about students' earned credits.

Efficient data transfer is a significant advantage, as a student's academic data is seamlessly transferred to a new school by sharing the APAAR ID when switching institutions, eliminating the need for physical documents or transfer certificates.

Creating an APAAR ID involves providing basic information and verifying it through the Aadhaar number. Minors require consent from their parents or guardians for registration, which is voluntary, not mandatory.

While some individuals express concerns about sharing their Aadhaar details due to data privacy worries, officials clarify that the Aadhaar number is used solely for verification purposes and is not shared during registration, ensuring data privacy and security.

### [Manipur needs a platform for 'samvad'-The Hindu Editorial](#)

#### Security

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Manipur's Ongoing Crisis:** Manipur has been mired in a crisis for over five months with no clear understanding of its causes, making it a challenging situation for all parties involved.
2. **Complex Narratives:** The conflict in Manipur is not merely a state-citizen issue but is influenced by various complex narratives, including the idea of an imagined Kuki nation, insurgency across the border, illegal migration, and narco-terrorism.
3. **Hardliner Politics:** Hardliners in the conflict often justify violence as self-defense, exacerbating the crisis and sidelining humanitarian concerns.
4. **Progress in Investigations:** Some specific cases have been resolved through police investigations, indicating a slow return to normalcy in the region.
5. **Emphasizing Unity:** It is crucial to focus on coexistence, multicultural bonds, and spatial sharing among ethnic communities to move towards a peaceful resolution.
6. **The Need for Dialogue (Samvad):** The article advocates for open dialogue, following India's tradition of "samvad," which can lead to peace and lasting solutions by promoting an understanding of differing perspectives and working towards a shared truth. Manipur needs a platform for such dialogue amidst ongoing violence and mistrust.

#### Mains easy language

In Manipur, a crisis has been unfolding for over five months, but the reasons behind the violence remain unclear. Different groups involved have their own versions of the truth, making it difficult for any neutral party to discern what's really happening. The Editors





Guild of India faced criticism for allegedly favoring one group in their report on the issue, which further complicated matters. While some cases have been solved through police investigations, the crisis is far from over.

One significant concern is the influence of hardliners in this conflict, who often justify their violent actions as acts of self-defense, leaving human concerns at the wayside. The situation in Manipur is not merely a matter of law and order but involves complex narratives, such as the idea of an imagined Kuki nation, border insurgency, illegal migration, and narco-terrorism. In this intricate web of narratives, finding a holistic truth that all parties can agree upon becomes crucial.

To resolve this crisis, there is a need for dialogue and an emphasis on coexistence and multicultural bonds among ethnic communities. This dialogue, following India's tradition of "samvad," invites open discussions and understanding of differing perspectives. It's a path to peace amidst ongoing violence and mistrust in Manipur.

### **Renewed risks-The Hindu Editorial**

Economics

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Global Economic Outlook Uncertain:** The global economic outlook for 2023-24 is uncertain, with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) flagging risks such as geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, volatile financial markets, and unpredictable monsoons.
2. **India's Vulnerability to Global Conflicts:** The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict is a major concern, potentially affecting global supplies of essentials like food, fuel, and fertilizer. India's heavy reliance on imports for these items raises macroeconomic stability concerns.
3. **Rising U.S. Bond Yields Add to Uncertainty:** The surge in U.S. bond yields, reaching a 16-year high at 5%, is causing additional economic uncertainty. This, combined with mixed data and global central bank signals, contributes to financial market turbulence.
4. **Finance Ministry's Optimism:** In contrast, the Finance Ministry maintains optimism, citing easing inflation, strengthening consumption demand, increased investment, and lower crude oil prices compared to previous quarters.
5. **Concerns About an Uneven Recovery:** Despite optimism, there are signs of an uneven recovery in India. Small car sales have slumped, non-essential goods face weak demand in rural areas, and some IT firms are scaling down growth and hiring plans.
6. **Need for Deeper Analysis:** The report underscores the importance of deeper analysis of consumption and hiring trends. Addressing issues related to an uneven recovery is crucial for a broader investment revival and long-term economic stability.

#### **Mains easy language**

The global economic outlook for 2023-24 is shrouded in uncertainty, with several key factors contributing to this uncertainty. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is cautious due to various risks, such as tensions between countries, economic instability, volatile financial markets, and unpredictable monsoon patterns. Of particular concern is the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, which could disrupt the global supply of essential items like food, fuel, and fertilizer. India heavily relies on imports for these goods, making it vulnerable to any disturbances in the global supply chain.





Additionally, the surge in U.S. bond yields, which represent interest rates, adds to the economic uncertainty. These bond yields have reached a 16-year high, causing turbulence in financial markets. While the Finance Ministry maintains a more positive outlook, citing easing inflation and increasing consumption and investment, there are warning signs of an uneven recovery within India. Slumping small car sales, weak demand for non-essential goods in rural areas, and IT companies scaling down their growth and hiring plans suggest challenges in the economy.

To ensure a stable and sustainable economic future, a more detailed examination of consumption and hiring trends is necessary. Addressing the issues associated with an uneven recovery is crucial for a broader revival of investments and overall economic stability.

### [Is India ready to host the Olympic Games? - The Hindu Editorial](#)

International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Prestige and Politics of Hosting Olympics:** Hosting the Olympics is a prestigious event and a significant political statement for nations, allowing them to showcase their global influence. India's stature would rise considerably with a successful Games.
2. **Non-Negotiables for Success:** A strong, united National Olympic Committee (NOC) is crucial, along with legacy planning, infrastructure development, and effective stakeholder cooperation, including the government and sports bodies.
3. **India's Challenges:** India faces challenges in fostering cohesion among stakeholders and improving sports governance, particularly among federations.
4. **Timeline and Readiness:** With only thirteen years until the proposed 2036 Olympics, India must begin preparations immediately, engaging specialists in various fields for effective planning and execution.
5. **Medal Prospects:** Recent success at the Asian Games has inspired hope for India's future Olympic medal prospects. To compete effectively, India needs to focus on sports with multiple medal-winning potential.
6. **Facility Development:** To reduce costs and ensure sustainability, temporary and movable structures are recommended for Olympic venues. India should shift focus from grand permanent venues to practical, technically sound facilities.
7. **Conclusion and Realistic Goals:** Hosting the 2036 Olympics necessitates extensive coordination, governance improvement, and long-term planning. Rather than a specific medal count, the goal should be competitiveness across various Olympic events to ensure a successful Games

#### **Mains easy language**

In a bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games, India is gearing up for an incredible challenge and opportunity. Hosting the Olympics is a big deal – it's like throwing a global sports party where the whole world watches and celebrates your country for 16 days. But this celebration comes with a lot of responsibilities and challenges. A strong and united team, led by the National Olympic Committee (NOC), is crucial. They need to plan for the legacy of the Games, and ensure that infrastructure is in place. However, India's biggest challenge might be getting everyone on the same page. We often struggle to work cohesively.

The clock is ticking; India only has 13 years to get everything in order. This means they need to start now and get the right people involved. It's not just about sports, it's about having specialists who can think ahead and plan for the long term. Moreover, India needs to develop sports where it can win multiple medals.





While hosting the Olympics is a tremendous honor, the goal shouldn't just be about winning medals. Instead, it should be about showing the world what India is capable of. The 2036 Olympics could be an opportunity to strengthen India's presence on the global stage. To make this happen, it's not just about getting ready, it's about staying ready even after the Games are over. Temporary structures, rather than grand permanent ones, might be the way to go. It's a massive undertaking, but with the right planning and commitment, India could make it a spectacular event.

### **Why are the China-Bhutan boundary talks significant? – The Hindu Text and Context**

International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1. Significant Progress in Boundary Talks** China and Bhutan held their 25th round of boundary talks, signalling substantial headway in resolving border disputes.
- 2. Seven-Year Gap in Talks** After a prolonged hiatus of seven years, the talks resumed, with Bhutan sharing a border with the Tibetan Autonomous Region.
- 3. Progress Amid Hiatus** Despite the break in talks due to the Doklam Standoff and the COVID-19 pandemic, both sides engaged in talks at other levels, especially after China's threat to open a new border dispute front to Bhutan's east.
- 4. Advancing the 3-Step Roadmap** Bhutan's leaders have made noteworthy progress in advancing the 3-Step Roadmap initiated in 2021, even before Bhutanese elections in 2024.
- 5. The 3-Step Roadmap** The 3-Step Roadmap aims to clearly delineate Bhutanese and Chinese territory, involving agreeing on the border, visiting sites on the ground, and formally demarcating the boundary.
- 6. India's Concerns and China's Expanding Presence** India closely monitors the talks due to its strained relations with China and concerns regarding the Doklam plateau. China's increasing control in the region, its proposal to swap areas in Doklam, and its demand for full diplomatic relations with Bhutan are all worrisome for India.

#### **Mains easy language**

China and Bhutan have recently made significant progress in their 25th round of boundary talks, marking a major development in resolving border disputes. These talks come after a seven-year hiatus in negotiations and are part of a 3-Step Roadmap initiated in 2021. During the break in talks, both countries engaged in discussions at various levels, especially after China hinted at opening a new front for a border dispute in Bhutan's east. Bhutan's leaders have been actively working towards advancing the roadmap even before the 2024 Bhutanese elections, showing their commitment to resolving these issues.

The 3-Step Roadmap is a key element of these talks, aiming to clearly define the boundaries between Bhutan and China. It involves agreeing on the border, visiting the actual border sites, and officially marking the boundary. These discussions have raised concerns for India due to its tense relations with China and the strategic importance of the Doklam plateau. China has proposed "swapping" areas in Doklam, which is unsettling for India as it could threaten its Siliguri corridor, a vital link to its northeastern states. India is also wary of China's demand for full diplomatic relations with Bhutan, as it has faced challenges with Chinese projects in neighboring countries.





In summary, the recent China-Bhutan boundary talks signify a substantial step toward resolving border disputes and have drawn attention from India due to the strategic implications for the region.

### **What does the abortion verdict mean for reproductive justice? – The Hindu Science**

#### **Polity**

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1. Supreme Court Rejects Abortion Plea:** The Supreme Court's recent ruling denied a woman's abortion request, prioritizing the "rights of the unborn child" over her autonomy.
- 2. Weakening Women's Right to Choose:** This decision raises concerns about women's reproductive rights, potentially diluting their right to choose as recognized in previous landmark rulings.
- 3. Conflicting Priorities:** The court's decision sparks a conflict between the "rights of the unborn child" and a woman's autonomy, leaving the balance between these interests uncertain.
- 4. Viability as a Key Factor:** The concept of "viability," which determines when a foetus can survive outside the womb, seems to influence the court's decision.
- 5. Unclear Legal Rights of a Foetus:** The legal rights of a foetus in Indian law remain ambiguous. There's no clear articulation of whether the foetus possesses rights or mere "interests."
- 6. Impact on Women's Rights and Health:** Denying abortions can have severe consequences for women, including health risks and socio-economic challenges, making it a matter of concern.
- 7. Abortion Denial and Inequality:** Denying women access to safe and legal abortions perpetuates disadvantages faced by historically disadvantaged groups, contributing to inequality with broader social and health implications.

#### **Mains easy language**

In a recent decision, the Supreme Court of India denied a woman's plea for an abortion, highlighting the "rights of the unborn child" as more important than a woman's right to make choices about her own body. This ruling has sparked concerns about women's reproductive rights in the country.

The decision seems to weaken a woman's right to choose, a right previously established in a landmark court ruling. It introduces a conflict between the "rights of the unborn child" and a woman's autonomy, creating uncertainty about how to balance these competing interests.

Central to this ruling is the concept of "viability," which determines when a foetus can survive outside the womb. This concept appears to influence the court's decision, raising questions about how it's applied and what it means for women's reproductive choices.

The legal rights of a foetus in Indian law remain unclear. It's uncertain whether the foetus possesses rights or merely "interests." This ambiguity calls for further legal deliberation.





This decision's impact on women's rights and health is significant. Denying abortions can lead to health risks and socio-economic challenges for women. Furthermore, it perpetuates disadvantages faced by historically disadvantaged groups, contributing to inequality with broader social and health implications. In essence, this ruling has ignited a critical debate on women's reproductive justice and the legal status of fetuses in India.

### **Unmasking the Indian osteoporosis care crisis-The Hindu Science**

Society

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Low Awareness Among Doctors:** Many medical practitioners in India lack knowledge about osteoporosis, which hinders early diagnosis and treatment.
2. **Prevalence of Osteoporosis:** India faces a significant osteoporosis crisis, with millions of individuals, particularly women, living with the condition, leading to fractures and disabilities.
3. **Limited Access to Diagnostic Tests:** Access to essential diagnostic tools like DEXA scans for osteoporosis is severely limited, even in major cities.
4. **Need for Routine Assessment:** Routine assessment of bone fragility, even in patients with fractures, is not common practice in India's healthcare system.
5. **Resource-Limited Solutions:** In resource-limited settings, alternative diagnostic methods and supplements can help overcome infrastructure limitations in diagnosing and treating osteoporosis.
6. **Importance of Raising Awareness:** Bridging the osteoporosis care gap in India requires raising awareness and providing healthcare providers with context-specific knowledge to ensure early intervention and a healthier future for all.

#### **Mains easy language**

The article highlights a concerning issue in India: the lack of attention and awareness surrounding osteoporosis, a condition that weakens bones. Many people suffer from chronic bone pain without receiving a proper diagnosis. This condition not only causes pain but also increases the risk of fractures and changes in posture, negatively affecting the quality of life for those affected.

Shocking statistics reveal that millions of Indian women, particularly post-menopausal women, are living with osteoporosis, and this number could be even higher if we consider other factors like surgeries and medication use. In 2019, India was identified as the highest contributor to osteoporosis-related fractures and disabilities worldwide.

One of the main problems is that most doctors in India lack knowledge about osteoporosis, making early diagnosis and treatment a challenge. Access to critical diagnostic tests, like DEXA scans, is also limited, leaving a significant portion of the population without proper assessment.

The article emphasizes the importance of raising awareness about osteoporosis and the need for early intervention. It also suggests that even in resource-limited settings, alternative diagnostic methods and supplements can help address the issue. By improving healthcare providers' knowledge and focusing on early detection and treatment, India can work towards a healthier, pain-free future for all affected by osteoporosis.

**28th October 2023**



| Clear your doubts now.



## Diplomacy to the rescue-Indian Express Editorial

### International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Unprecedented Case:** The case of eight retired Indian naval personnel sentenced to death in Qatar on espionage charges is unique in India's diplomatic history, as it differs from previous cases involving murder or narcotics offences.
2. **Diplomatic Challenge:** The situation poses a significant diplomatic challenge for the Indian government, particularly for Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, who is responsible for Indians abroad.'
3. **Government Assurance:** Minister Jaishankar assured Parliament that the case is a top priority, emphasizing its sensitivity and urging patience from the public.
4. **Expectation of Results:** While the government has promised to address the situation, the public expects concrete results rather than mere assurances.
5. **Diplomatic Efforts:** India has made diplomatic efforts, including meetings with the naval personnel in Qatar and providing consular access. However, the extent of information shared remains uncertain.
6. **Unexpected Sentence:** The use of the term "shocked" in the government spokesperson's statement suggests that India may not have anticipated a death sentence for the convicted personnel, even if found guilty.
7. **Geopolitical Context:** India's diplomatic relations in West Asia and its shift away from traditional bilateral ties are relevant to the case, adding complexity to the situation and requiring deft diplomatic handling.

#### Mains in Easy Language

The article highlights the challenging diplomatic situation faced by the Indian government as eight retired naval personnel, accused of espionage, have been sentenced to death in Qatar. Unlike previous cases involving Indian nationals abroad, the individuals in question are not charged with murder or narcotics-related offenses. This presents a unique challenge for the government, especially Minister S. Jaishankar, who is responsible for the welfare of Indians abroad.

The government has assured the public that it is prioritizing the case and has called for patience. However, the public will expect concrete results rather than just assurances. Diplomatic efforts have been made, including meetings with the naval personnel in Qatar and providing consular access. Still, the extent of information shared between India and Qatar remains unclear.

The article also suggests that the government may not have anticipated a death sentence for the convicted personnel, based on the use of the term "shocked" in the spokesperson's statement. The broader context of India's diplomatic relations in West Asia and its shift away from traditional direct bilateral ties with the region is noted.

In navigating this complex diplomatic challenge, India must exercise great diplomatic finesse given its multifaceted relationship with Qatar and the geopolitical dynamics of the region. Ultimately, the life and liberty of the eight naval personnel are at stake, making a successful diplomatic resolution imperative.

## Remedy Worse Than Malaise- Indian Express Editorial

### Polity

#### Key Takeaways:

1. **Politics and Misinformation:** The article discusses the intersection of politics and misinformation, particularly in the context of upcoming elections in India.
2. **Deep Fake Challenge:** Deep fakes, which are sophisticated synthetic media such as images, videos, and voices, have the potential to mislead users and influence their actions, raising concerns in the electoral context.
3. **Government's Proposed Solution:** The central government is considering the use of Rule 4(2) of the 2021 Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines to counter political deep fakes. This rule mandates that significant social media messaging entities must be capable of identifying the "first originator of the information" on their platforms.





4. **Challenges with Rule 4(2):** The article highlights several challenges with this rule, especially when applied to end-to-end encrypted platforms like WhatsApp. Such platforms prioritize user privacy, and governments view end-to-end encryption as a threat to their functioning.
5. **Privacy Concerns:** The article raises privacy concerns by drawing an analogy to tagging citizens when they leave their homes. It emphasizes that the government's demand for information on the "first originator" can compromise privacy, with the scope for interpretation and misuse.
6. **Proportionality and Technical Challenges:** The rule's proportionality in balancing privacy rights and the goal of preventing serious offenses is questioned. Technical challenges in implementing traceability of messages are also highlighted.
7. **Legal Challenges:** Rule 4(2) is currently under challenge in courts. The Tripura High Court recently stayed an order demanding information from WhatsApp on the ground that the threat to public order was not established.

### **Mains in Easy Language:**

The article explores the complex issue of addressing political deep fakes and misinformation in the context of upcoming elections in India. It notes that while deep fakes are a cause for concern due to their potential to mislead and influence voters, the proposed solution may pose more significant problems than the problem itself.

The government plans to use Rule 4(2) of the Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines, which requires significant social media messaging entities to identify the "first originator of the information" on their platforms. This rule is primarily aimed at end-to-end encrypted platforms like WhatsApp, which prioritize user privacy.

The article raises privacy concerns, highlighting that the government's demand for information on the "first originator" can compromise individual privacy rights, with potential for misuse and overreach. It questions the proportionality of the rule in balancing privacy with the goal of preventing serious offenses and highlights the technical challenges in implementing traceability of messages.

Furthermore, the article notes that Rule 4(2) is currently facing legal challenges, with the Tripura High Court staying an order on the grounds of inadequate establishment of the threat to public order.

In conclusion, while addressing political deep fakes and misinformation is crucial, the article suggests that the proposed remedy may not effectively balance the need for preserving election integrity with individual privacy rights, and it raises concerns about the potential misuse of the rule.

### **India, Qatar, Natural gas-Indian express explained**

Economics

### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Crucial LNG Trade Relationship:** India's diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar are centered around liquefied natural gas (LNG), which is essential for India's energy needs.
2. **Heavy Dependence on Qatar:** More than 50% of India's LNG imports are supplied by Qatar, making it a critical partner for India's energy security.
3. **India's Growing Natural Gas Demand:** India aims to increase its natural gas usage to 15% of the primary energy mix by 2030, leading to a rise in LNG imports.
4. **Economic Imbalance in Trade:** India's imports from Qatar, primarily LNG, are significantly higher than its exports to Qatar, creating an economic imbalance.



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5. **Stability of Long-Term Contracts:** Long-term LNG contracts, such as the one between India's Petronet and Qatar, offer more price stability compared to spot purchases.

6. **Qatar's Dominance in Global LNG Market:** Qatar's position as the world's largest LNG exporter is further strengthened by the current global LNG market dynamics, favoring sellers and long-term contracts.

### Mains easy language

In the close relationship between India and Qatar, natural gas is the glue that holds them together. India heavily relies on Qatar for liquefied natural gas (LNG), which is crucial for its energy needs. Over 50% of India's LNG comes from Qatar, making it a vital supplier. India has ambitious plans to increase its natural gas usage in the coming years as it's seen as a cleaner and more affordable alternative to crude oil.

However, there's an economic imbalance in their trade relationship. India imports a lot more from Qatar, primarily LNG, than it exports to the country. This reliance on Qatar for energy creates a potential diplomatic challenge for India.

The global LNG market has been favouring sellers due to disruptions in Russian natural gas supplies, benefiting Qatar, which is the world's largest LNG exporter. Long-term LNG contracts, like the one India has with Qatar, provide more stable prices compared to spot purchases, making them a preferred choice.

India is looking to secure its LNG supply with more long-term contracts. Even though the global LNG market may shift to favor buyers in the future, Qatar is set to remain a significant player in the industry, making it even more crucial in the India-Qatar relationship.

### [US ally, sympathiser of Hamas: Qatar's unique position in Middle East-Indian express Explained](#)

International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Mediating Role:** Qatar serves as a mediator between the U.S. and Hamas, facilitating the release of American hostages held by Hamas.
2. **Strategic Significance:** Qatar hosts the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East, making it a crucial ally for the U.S. in the region.
3. **Balancing Act:** Qatar maintains a delicate balance by nurturing close ties with the U.S. while also having relationships with Hamas, Iran, and other controversial entities.
4. **Rise to Regional Power:** Qatar has evolved from a minor oil producer to a regional power, driven by significant economic growth and soft power initiatives.
5. **Independent Foreign Policy:** Qatar pursues an independent foreign policy, including maintaining relations with Iran and supporting various actors during the Arab Spring.
6. **Continued Relevance:** Qatar's strategic significance and vast natural gas reserves ensure its ongoing role as a mediator and its unique position in international relations.



| Clear your doubts now.



## Mains easy language

In simple terms, this article discusses Qatar's role as a go-between in conflicts involving the United States and Hamas, a Palestinian group. Qatar is a tiny, wealthy nation in the Middle East, and it's very important to the U.S. because it hosts the biggest American military base in the region. Recently, when Hamas released American hostages, the U.S. thanked Qatar for helping make it happen.

Qatar has a tricky job to do. On one hand, it's a close friend of the United States and helps the U.S. with its military operations. On the other hand, Qatar also has connections with Hamas and other groups that some countries see as controversial.

Over the years, Qatar has grown from being a small oil producer to a big player in the region because of its booming economy, ties with the U.S., and investments in things like media and education. Qatar has its own foreign policy and doesn't always agree with its neighbors, like Saudi Arabia. It even has good relations with Iran, which is unusual in the Arab world.

Qatar also has a reputation for sheltering dissidents and even some controversial figures. In 2017, some of its neighbors imposed a trade and diplomatic embargo on Qatar, but it was lifted in 2021. The article explains that Qatar's role as a mediator and its strategic importance will likely continue, despite its complicated relationships in the region.

### [Inform customers when banks ask for their credit score: What RBI has told credit bureaus-Indian express Explained](#)

Economics

#### Key Takeaways

- 1. RBI's New Regulations:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced new regulations for credit information companies (CICs), banks, and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).
- 2. Customer Alerts:** CICs are now required to send SMS or email alerts to customers when their Credit Information Reports (CIR) are accessed by banks and NBFCs. Likewise, banks and NBFCs must notify customers when they submit information about default or Days Past Due (DPD) on existing credit.
- 3. Implementation Deadline:** These new rules will become effective within a period of six months.
- 4. Free Full Credit Report (FFCR):** CICs must provide individuals with a Free Full Credit Report, including their credit score, once a year. The link to access this report must be easily accessible on the CIC's website.
- 5. Data Correction:** Customers can request corrections to their Credit Information Report. Banks and NBFCs must inform customers of the reasons for rejecting these correction requests.
- 6. Transparency and Accountability:** CICs are required to conduct periodic reviews of their algorithms for generating Credit Information Reports, perform root cause analysis of complaints, and disclose complaint details on their websites. These measures aim to enhance transparency and accountability in the credit information industry.

## Mains easy language

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced new rules for credit information companies (CICs), banks, and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to make the lending process more transparent and customer-friendly.





One major change is that CICs must now notify you through SMS or email whenever a bank or NBFC accesses your Credit Information Report (CIR). Similarly, if these lenders report your default on payments or Days Past Due (DPD) on existing credit, they must inform you. This ensures you're in the loop about your credit information.

Moreover, CICs are now required to offer a Free Full Credit Report (FFCR) once a year, including your credit score. This report can be accessed easily from their websites. If you ever need to correct data in your CIR, the RBI insists that banks and NBFCs must tell you why your request was rejected, so you can better understand any issues.

To improve transparency, CICs must conduct regular reviews of their algorithms used to create your credit reports, and they need to analyze complaints to identify any problems. Complaint details will be made available on their websites.

These new rules aim to provide more control and information to you, the customer, and will come into effect in six months.

### **Women can make the world better-The Hindu Editorial**

Economics

#### **Key Takeaways**

- 1. Gender Disparity in Economics:**The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences has historically been awarded to mostly men, with only three women recipients by 2023.
- 2. Claudia Goldin's Nobel Prize:**Claudia Goldin won the Nobel Prize for explaining the gender wage gap, highlighting how women are undervalued in economic terms because of their family care responsibilities.
- 3. The Changing Landscape of Work:**Global economic growth patterns are shifting, with more informal and gig economy jobs. India, with a large youth population, faces challenges in providing decent work opportunities.
- 4. Undervalued Care Work:**Caregiving work, often performed by women, is not adequately valued in the economy, resulting in low wages for domestic and community-based caregivers.
- 5. Rethinking Economic Growth:**India aims to achieve a \$10 trillion GDP, but policymakers must consider how to incorporate women and informal workers into the formal economy.
- 6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**The G-20 acknowledges that progress toward the SDGs is off-track. A new approach is needed to address complex problems.
- 7. Bottom-Up Problem Solving:**Solving complex issues requires local, community-driven solutions that account for unique regional contexts.
- 8. Value of Care Work:**Traditional economics focused on production and competition, but a more feminine perspective emphasizes the importance of care and sustainability.
- 9. A Paradigm Shift:**Economics needs a paradigm shift, challenging the existing power structures and rethinking the role of money, authority, and education in society.
- 10. Empowering Women and Communities:**Women should be empowered to shape family-oriented institutions, and communities should have more control in designing inclusive and sustainable solutions.



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**11. The Need for Institutional Reforms:** Without significant institutional reforms, the vision of "One Family, One Earth, One Future" may remain elusive in the face of environmental and economic challenges.

### **Mains easy language**

This article highlights the important role women can play in making the world a better place. It starts by shedding light on the gender disparity in economics, where the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences has predominantly recognized men, with just three women laureates. One of these laureates, Claudia Goldin, was honored for her work on the gender wage gap, emphasizing that women are often undervalued due to their caregiving responsibilities.

The changing landscape of work is another key point. The global economy is evolving, with more informal and gig economy jobs, particularly impacting India, which has a large youth population searching for decent work opportunities.

The article also points out the undervaluation of care work, typically carried out by women. Caregivers, whether providing domestic services or working as health activists or educators, are often poorly compensated despite their vital contributions.

To meet India's ambitious goal of a \$10 trillion GDP, policymakers must consider integrating women and informal workers into the formal economy. A paradigm shift is necessary, empowering women and local communities, and implementing fundamental institutional reforms.

Finally, the article stresses the importance of embracing the vision of "One Earth, One Future" to create a more sustainable and inclusive world, and calls for a shift away from traditional, male-dominated, money-driven institutions toward a more inclusive and equitable future.

### **[A China-India partnership, its vast global potential-The Hindu Editorial](#)**

International Relations

### **Key Takeaways**

- 1. Global Challenges and Deficits:** The world is facing various traditional and non-traditional security threats, leading to growing deficits in peace, development, security, and governance on a global scale.
- 2. China-India Vision:** Both nations have a shared vision for the future and contributed to international norms.
- 3. Global Shared Future:** President Xi's vision includes open economies, peace, new international relations, true multilateralism, and common values.
- 4. China's Contributions:** China has actively contributed to this vision through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative, addressing global challenges and promoting human progress.
- 5. Partnership Potential:** China and India, with their large populations, have the potential to work together in building a more open, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and peaceful world, demonstrating the collective will of Global South countries.
- 6. Common Values and Principles:** The partnership between China and India is founded on common values such as peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom, while respecting the diversity of nations and social systems.



| Clear your doubts now.



## Mains easy language

In a world marked by ongoing crises and security threats, there's a pressing need for collaboration to address global deficits in peace and development. China and India, two ancient Asian civilizations, share a common vision for humanity's future and have played a significant role in shaping international relations. Back in the 1950s, they introduced the "Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence," which are fundamental principles guiding how countries interact with one another.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forth a vision of a "global community of a shared future." This vision calls for open economic globalization, emphasizing the importance of peace in achieving development, promoting new international relations that respect mutual respect and equity, fostering true multilateralism, and embracing common values such as peace, equity, and democracy. China has been actively contributing to this vision through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, which addresses global challenges and promotes human progress.

With their enormous populations, China and India are well-positioned to work together in building a more inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and peaceful world. Their partnership is founded on shared values and principles that

aim to create a better future for all. This collaborative effort is significant in a world where the need for unity and shared solutions to global problems has never been greater.

### [Mystery trial-The Hindu Editorial](#)

International Relations

#### Key Takeaways

- 1. Death Sentence in Qatar:** Eight Indian citizens have been sentenced to death in Qatar, raising serious concerns and demanding immediate attention.
- 2. Opaque Trial and Espionage Accusations:** The trial of these individuals was shrouded in secrecy, with limited information about the charges, evidence, and judgement. They are accused of espionage, allegedly sharing classified information about a submarine program with a third country.
- 3. Crucial India-Qatar Relations:** India's relationship with Qatar is significant, encompassing strategic and defense agreements. Qatar is a vital source of India's LNG imports and essential materials, and it hosts a large Indian expatriate population.
- 4. Swift Diplomatic Action Required:** The Indian government must promptly initiate diplomatic efforts to support the accused during the appeals process. This should include high-level engagements and the possibility of converting the death sentences to prison terms, potentially in India.
- 5. Commitment to Protect Indian Citizens Abroad:** Regardless of geopolitical considerations, it is imperative for India to prioritize the well-being and rights of its citizens abroad, in line with its commitment to "no Indian left behind."
- 6. Leveraging India-Qatar Ties for a Positive Resolution:** India should use its strong relationship with Qatar to secure the best possible outcome for its citizens facing the death penalty, recognizing the mutual benefits of these ties.

## Mains easy language



| Clear your doubts now.



In Qatar, eight Indian citizens have been sentenced to death, accused of sharing classified information about a submarine program with another country. The trial was conducted secretly, and there's very little information available about the charges and evidence against them. This situation is causing great concern.

India's relationship with Qatar is quite important. We get a substantial portion of our liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar, and they are a key source of imports, especially for construction materials and fresh food. Even during the 2017 Gulf blockade against Qatar, India continued its supplies to the country. Additionally, a significant number of Indian expatriates live and work in Qatar.

The Indian government needs to act swiftly and diplomatically to support these individuals during the appeals process. They should engage with Qatar's leadership at the highest levels and make a case for clemency, potentially changing the death sentences to prison terms, which could be served in India.

Regardless of any geopolitical factors, the government must prioritize the lives of these citizens and uphold its commitment to "no Indian left behind." It's essential to leverage India's strong ties with Qatar to ensure a positive resolution for its citizens facing the death penalty.

**29th October, 2023**

### **IITM Pune demonstrated Cloud Seeding can produce rainfall- The Hindu Science**

Science Tech New

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. Location and Context: The experiment took place in Solapur city, a region with low annual rainfall due to its location on the leeward side of the Western Ghats.
2. Results: The cloud seeding led to an 18% increase in rainfall, translating to an additional 8.67 mm of rain and 867 million litres of water.
3. Study Details: Named CAIPEEX phase 4, the study was conducted during the 2018 and 2019 summer monsoons to evaluate hygroscopic seeding in deep convective clouds and develop a seeding protocol.
4. Methodology: Using two aircraft, 276 convective clouds were studied, with 150 being seeded.
5. Target Clouds: The experiment focused on convective clouds over one kilometre in depth, with potential to become deep cumulus clouds.
6. Materials and Conditions: Calcium chloride flare was used for seeding, with the process conducted at the cloud bases during their growing stage.
7. Enhancement and Limitations: Seeded clouds produced more rainfall than unseeded clouds, demonstrating cloud seeding's potential to partially address water scarcity, though not as a sole solution to droughts.
8. Economic Aspects: The cost of producing water through cloud seeding was calculated at 18 paise per litre, with potential for significant reduction if indigenous seeding aircraft are used.
9. Community Benefits: The additional water availability is seen as particularly beneficial in regions like Solapur, where water supply is infrequent.
10. **Research Contributions:** The two-year study has contributed to the development of protocols and a high-resolution numerical model for cloud seeding in India.

#### **Mains in Easy Language**

This experiment happened in Solapur, a city that doesn't get much rain because it's behind a big mountain range. In 2018 and 2019, during the main rainy season, it got 384 mm and 422 mm of rain, respectively.





Scientists tried a method called cloud seeding to increase the rain. They used two airplanes to spread a special salt (calcium chloride) into the clouds, focusing on the really big, growing ones. This method made it rain 18% more, adding about 8.67 mm of rain, or a total of 867 million liters of water.

They found that the clouds they treated rained more than the ones they didn't. However, this method doesn't work on every cloud; only about 20-25% of the clouds rained more when treated.

This extra rain is really helpful for places like Solapur, where water is supplied only once every three days. But the scientists pointed out that cloud seeding alone can't fix long periods of drought; it can only help a bit.

They also calculated the cost of this method, finding it to be around 18 paise per liter of water. They believe the cost could be cut in half if they use Indian airplanes for seeding instead of renting from other countries.

Even though cloud seeding can't solve all water problems, it's a useful tool for creating a bit more rain, especially in areas that really need it.

### **What's in store for economy in second half?- The Hindu FAQ**

Economy

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Economic Growth:** India's GDP and GVA grew by 7.8% in Q2 2023, but the growth is expected to slow down, with inflation rising to 6.4% due to higher food prices.
2. **Oil Prices and Geopolitical Tensions:** The Israel-Palestine conflict and potential issues in West Asia could increase oil prices and disrupt global supply chains, affecting India's economy.
3. **Government and RBI Response:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed concerns about fuel and food security, while RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das highlighted new uncertainties and stated that high interest rates will continue.
4. **Risks and Growth Outlook:** Despite risks from global and domestic fronts, the IMF slightly increased India's GDP growth estimate. However, inflation remains a major concern, with a negative impact on consumer demand and rural economy.
5. **Potential Impacts:** The combination of geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, and potential disruptions necessitates vigilant monitoring and strategic policy responses to maintain economic stability and growth.

#### **Easy Language**

The Indian economy has been doing really well in the past few months, with a growth of 7.8%. This is a good sign because it means businesses are thriving and more people are finding jobs. However, there's a downside. The cost of living has gone up, especially for food items, which is something we refer to as inflation. This inflation rate has increased from 4.7% to 6.4%.

Looking ahead, the government is optimistic and believes that the economy will continue to perform well, despite the increase in living costs. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is a bit more cautious and predicts a slight slowdown in growth.

A major concern at the moment is the conflict happening between Israel and Palestine in West Asia. If this conflict continues and escalates, it could lead to higher oil prices for India and issues with shipping routes. The upcoming elections in India add another layer of complexity. The government might choose not to pass on the increased fuel costs to the citizens due to the elections, even though it's more expensive for the country to buy oil.

The Finance Minister, Ms. Sitharaman, has expressed her concerns about how these global issues might affect the cost of fuel and food in India. On the other hand, Mr. Das from the RBI acknowledges these challenges and emphasizes that we will have to wait and see how things unfold, especially with the volatile oil prices.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given a prediction for India's economic growth, expecting a slight slowdown but overall, still positive growth. They have pointed out both positive and negative factors currently at play in the economy. Similarly, the RBI predicts a bit of a slowdown but expects things to get better after a few months.





Despite these challenges, India's basic economic strength is still good, with strong growth and improvement in various sectors. However, the increased cost of living might continue to be an issue, potentially affecting how much people are able to buy and spend.

Specifically, some food items like onions might remain expensive, and a study has shown that people are buying less of certain things, like clothes and mobile phones, because of the high inflation. Demand for products in rural areas is also not growing as fast as needed, which is a concern.

Additionally, the upcoming elections might lead to a decrease in government spending on big projects, which had been helping to boost the economy. Overall, while there are challenges and concerns, the government and RBI are closely monitoring the situation to navigate the Indian economy through these uncertain times.

### **Wars that have no rules by P.Chidambaram- Indian Express Opinion**

#### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Comparison Between Modern Humans and Neanderthals:** Despite our progress, modern human warfare is likened to the Neanderthals' unstructured and brutal battles.
2. **Ancient Rules of War:** Historical Tamil poetry outlined humane war rules, promoting structured battles and protecting the vulnerable.
3. **Modern Warfare's Brutality:** Recent wars, like Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas, are described as ruthless, causing widespread destruction and human suffering.
4. **Wars Over Land:** These conflicts are rooted in territorial disputes and power struggles, leading to complex and devastating situations.
5. **United Nations and its Powerlessness:** The UN's inability to prevent wars and uphold peace is criticized, highlighting a need for new conflict resolution mechanisms.
6. **The Need for Negotiation and a Tribunal:** The article urges negotiation over warfare and advocates for an international tribunal to handle land disputes and prevent further carnage.

#### **Easy Language**

Imagine we're looking at two pictures: one of very old humans called Neanderthals, who lived a really long time ago, and one of us today. Even though we've got smartphones and have been to the moon, this article is saying that when it comes to fighting and wars, we are not that different from those ancient people.

A long time ago, in a place called Tamil Nadu, a poet wrote down some rules for fighting wars. He basically said, "Hey, let's not hurt the weak and innocent, like women, sick people, and animals. Let's fight only during the day and take breaks." It was like setting rules for a fair fight.

But today, the writer thinks we've forgotten how to fight fair. He talks about big wars happening right now in places like Ukraine and Gaza, where whole cities are being destroyed, and a lot of innocent people are getting hurt.

The big point here is that these wars are mostly about who owns what land. For example, Russia and Ukraine are fighting because Russia used to be in charge, and they don't want Ukraine to be buddies with their rivals-NATO. Israel and Hamas are fighting because they can't agree on who should live where.

The writer thinks the United Nations, isn't doing enough to stop these fights. It's like a referee that's not blowing the whistle when the game gets too rough.

In the end, the writer is saying, "Can we all just talk and figure this out instead of fighting?" He wishes there was a special court to sort out these land problems and thinks that without one, we will keep on fighting just like those old Neanderthals.

**30 October 2023**



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## Policy to what end, at whose cost- Indian Express Editorial

### Economy

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Context:** The central government is working to control food inflation in anticipation of upcoming state elections. This article examines how they are doing it and who is affected.
2. **Basmati Rice Export:** The government has imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of \$1,200/tonne on basmati rice. This is causing a decline in exports, hurting farmers in Punjab and Haryana, while benefiting the upper-income urban class.
3. **Negative Consequences:** Restrictive export policies are also affecting other types of rice and commodities. The lack of a stable export policy harms India's image as a global leader and hampers efforts to double agricultural exports.
4. **Inequality:** These policies favor domestic consumers but disproportionately harm farmers. The author suggests that support for consumers should be targeted at the vulnerable sections of society rather than imposing high MEPs.
5. **Competitiveness:** Agricultural exports reflect India's competitiveness in the global market. To improve this, investments in agriculture research and development, seeds, irrigation, and farming practices need to increase substantially.
6. **Suboptimal Spending:** Although a significant amount of money is allocated to agriculture and consumers, the way it is spent is suboptimal. Subsidies and populist measures can harm the agricultural sector's health and competitiveness.
7. **The Challenge:** To become a global agricultural powerhouse, India must innovate, produce, and export competitively. This will require a shift in policy focus and better investment in agricultural research and development.

#### Mains in Easy language

The article discusses the central government's efforts to control food inflation as state elections approach. One key measure taken is the imposition of a high minimum export price (MEP) on basmati rice, which has a significant impact on rice exports. This policy has raised concerns about its consequences and who bears the brunt of its effects.

The author highlights the negative consequences of the high MEP on basmati rice. This premium rice, primarily produced in Punjab and Haryana, is exported to countries in the Gulf, Europe, and the US. However, the MEP of \$1,200 per tonne has restricted its export, resulting in low prices for farmers in these regions and benefiting the domestic upper-income urban class.

The issue is not limited to basmati rice alone; it extends to other types of rice and commodities, leading to a lack of stability in India's export policy. These restrictive export policies have implications for India's reputation as a leader in the Global South and the government's goal of doubling agricultural exports.

The author raises concerns about the inequality inherent in these policies. While they aim to support domestic consumers, they disproportionately affect farmers, particularly those in Punjab and Haryana. The author argues that support for consumers should be targeted at vulnerable sections of society rather than imposing high MEPs, which essentially hurt Indian rice traders and may benefit competitors like Pakistan.

In conclusion, the article calls for a more balanced approach to agricultural and export policies that support both farmers and consumers, while enhancing India's competitiveness in the global agricultural market. It emphasizes the importance of increasing investments in agriculture research and development to achieve this goal.

## China model India didn't follow- Indian Express Explained

### Economy

#### Key Takeaways





1. **Lewis Model's Applicability:** The article questions the relevance of the Lewis Model in India, which proposed that higher wages would drive labor from agriculture to manufacturing.
2. **Indian Employment Trends:** India's employment landscape has deviated from the Lewis Model, with minimal growth in the manufacturing sector despite a reduction in agriculture's workforce share.
3. **Reversal of Trends:** Recent years have witnessed a reversal, with more labor returning to agriculture, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and manufacturing employment declining.
4. **Inadequate Structural Transformation:** The expected shift of surplus labor from subsistence to capitalist sectors hasn't materialized, and labor movement has largely occurred within subsistence sectors.
5. **State-Level Disparities:** In many states, manufacturing employment lags behind construction and services, although Gujarat stands out as an exception.
6. **Changing Economic Dynamics:** The Lewis Model, successful for China in the past, might not be directly applicable to India, given changing economic dynamics, particularly the increasing capital-intensity of manufacturing.
7. **New Economic Development Model:** NITI Aayog is working on a fresh economic development model, focusing on creating remunerative job opportunities within and outside agriculture, particularly in supply chain, processing, and bio-based products.

### Mains in Easy Language

The article explores the applicability of the Lewis Model, formulated by economist William Arthur Lewis in 1954, to India's employment landscape. This model suggests that surplus labor from agriculture can be absorbed into the manufacturing sector by offering wages that encourage workers to leave family farms. However, India's employment patterns have not conformed to this model's expectations. While agriculture's share in the labor force has declined over the years, this shift has not significantly benefited the manufacturing sector, which has seen limited growth.

In recent years, India has experienced a reversal of these trends, with more of the labor force returning to agriculture, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The anticipated structural transformation, with the movement of labor from subsistence to capitalist sectors, has stalled. Labor mobility, as noted by economists like Amit Basole, has predominantly occurred within subsistence sectors, and the non-agricultural job growth hasn't primarily transpired in high-productivity industries.

The article also highlights state-level disparities, where manufacturing employment in many states is lower than that in construction and services. Gujarat stands out as an exception, with a substantial manufacturing workforce. The Lewis Model, which was effective for China in the past, may not be directly applicable to India due to evolving economic dynamics. Manufacturing is becoming more capital-intensive, and traditional pathways to employment are less accessible. To address these challenges, NITI Aayog is developing a new economic development model that focuses on creating remunerative job opportunities both within and outside agriculture, particularly in the supply chain, processing, and bio-based products.

### [Caution for Israel flashing warning signs for world economy- Indian Express Explained](#)

#### International Relations

##### Key Takeaways

1. **IDF's Ground Activity Expansion in Gaza:** The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have announced a gradual expansion of ground activity in the Gaza Strip.





2. **Challenges of the "Post-Conflict Phase":** If Israel succeeds in eliminating Hamas, concerns arise about how they will manage the "post-conflict phase." General David Petraeus, a former CIA director and top US general, advises Israel to plan for this phase and envision the future of Gaza and the Palestinian people.
3. **Global Economic Scenarios:** Three potential scenarios for the global economy are outlined in response to the conflict's scale, ranging from a limited conflict in Gaza to a full-scale war between regional powers.
4. **Impact on Global Economy:** The global economy faces vulnerability to oil price spikes and inflation due to the ongoing conflict, which could have far-reaching consequences.
5. **Most Likely Scenario:** The most likely scenario is that the conflict remains confined to the Gaza Strip, with a limited impact on the global economy.
6. **Economic Consequences of Prolonged Conflict:** Prolonged conflict could lead to disruptions in the global oil supply, potentially causing inflation and slowing global growth.

### Mains in Easy Language

The article delves into the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) gradual expansion of ground operations within the Gaza Strip, highlighting the potential challenges of the "post-conflict phase" if Israel succeeds in eliminating Hamas from power. General David Petraeus, a former CIA director and esteemed US military leader, cautions Israel against repeating past post-conflict mistakes made by the United States during the post-9/11 era. He underscores the critical need for a comprehensive vision for Gaza's future following the resolution of the conflict, emphasizing that addressing the Hamas issue should go hand-in-hand with planning for the welfare and prospects of the Palestinian people.

Beyond the military aspects, the article navigates the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict and its far-reaching implications. This long-standing conflict, deeply rooted in history, geopolitics, and regional dynamics, has the potential to impact not only regional stability but also the global economic landscape. As the conflict unfolds, the international community faces the challenge of finding a path to lasting peace and addressing the underlying issues. Diplomacy, long-term planning, and the engagement of multiple stakeholders emerge as pivotal components in shaping the post-conflict future, with the ultimate aim of fostering positive change and stability in the region.

Moreover, the article highlights that the conflict's duration and intensity could have substantial consequences for the global economy, especially concerning oil prices and inflation. While the most probable scenario foresees a confined conflict within Gaza, minimizing its impact on the global economy, an extended and escalated conflict might disrupt the global oil supply. This could result in higher inflation rates and a slowdown in global economic growth, presenting significant challenges for the interconnected global economic landscape, particularly at a time when central banks are already grappling with inflation reduction strategies.

### [Time and change-The Hindu Editorial](#)

#### Polity

#### Key Takeaways

1. **Parliamentary Committee's Report Delayed:** The parliamentary committee is postponing the adoption of its report on three bills meant to replace existing criminal laws.
2. **Three Bills in Focus:** The bills under consideration are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, each aiming to replace specific sections of current criminal laws.



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**3. Concerns About Limited Scrutiny:** The adequacy of scrutiny for these bills is questioned, as they were intended to modernize a legal system considered colonial.

**4. Demand for More Time and Consultation:** Opposition members seek additional time to study the report, highlighting the need for wider consultations with various stakeholders, including lawyers, activists, and the subordinate judiciary.

**5. Urgent Legislative Introduction vs. Comprehensive Review:** The government wants to introduce and pass the bills during the winter session of Parliament, but concerns about potential misuse of new definitions, the introduction of "hate speech" offenses, and procedural reforms in the criminal justice system indicate a need for a more thorough examination.

### Mains easy language

In simple terms, a parliamentary committee is holding off on making decisions about new laws that would change the way our legal system deals with criminals. There are three important bills on the table: one to replace the Indian Penal Code, another to change the Code of Criminal Procedure, and a third one for the Indian Evidence Act. However, there's a problem because some members of the committee are saying they need more time to understand these changes.

These laws were supposed to modernize our legal system because many people thought it was too old-fashioned and influenced by colonial times. But the worry is that the committee hasn't taken enough time to think about the details and ask the opinions of different people, like lawyers and activists, who understand how these laws work in real life.

The delay in deciding comes from a lack of preparation. The draft report, which is like a summary of what these new laws will do, was shared with the committee very late, and only in English. The Hindi version was given even later. The committee's next meeting is planned for November 6, but we should not think of this delay as just a short pause. Instead, it's an opportunity to give the committee more time to think and talk to people who know the law well.

The government wants to push these new laws into Parliament and make them official soon, but there's no rush. Some parts of these new laws are similar to the old ones, but other parts, like what counts as "hate speech," need careful examination. We should take our time to make sure these new laws are the best they can be.

### [Give up impropriety, demonstrate impartiality-The Hindu Editorial](#)

### Polity

#### Key Takeaways

**1. Dignity Concerns:** The Chief Justice of India is worried about the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's inaction on disqualification petitions, emphasizing the need to maintain the court's dignity.

**2. Historical Evolution:** The Speaker's role has transformed from a Crown agent in medieval Britain to an impartial chairperson of the House of Commons, safeguarding the House's rights and privileges.





**3. Speaker's Role:** Indian Speakers certify Money Bills, decide on disqualifications, and suspend members for misconduct. However, there have been claims of bias against opposition members.

**4. Parliamentary Challenges:** Speaker partisanship has reduced the referral of Bills to committees, affecting parliamentary efficiency.

**5. Disqualification Issues:** Concerns about the Speaker's impartiality in deciding disqualifications have led to calls for an independent tribunal.

**6. Accountability and Impartiality:** Emulating British practices, where Speakers resign from their political party, could boost confidence in the Speaker's office in India. Until then, Speakers should avoid impropriety and demonstrate impartiality in line with democratic principles.

### **Mains easy language**

In a recent article, the Chief Justice of India expressed concern about the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's inaction on disqualification petitions, emphasizing the importance of upholding the court's dignity. The role of the Speaker has evolved historically, from being a representative of the King in medieval Britain to a neutral chairperson of the House of Commons, tasked with safeguarding the rights and privileges of the House and its members.

In India, Speakers of the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies play a crucial role, including certifying Money Bills and deciding on disqualifications. However, there have been concerns about their impartiality, with instances of perceived bias against opposition members. This bias also affects the efficiency of parliamentary functioning, as fewer Bills are being referred to committees for detailed scrutiny.

There have been calls for an independent tribunal to handle disqualification cases to ensure a fair process, given the potential for Speakers to favor the ruling party. The article suggests that India should adopt a practice from Britain, where Speakers resign from their political party upon election, maintaining impartiality. Until such changes occur, it is vital for Speakers to avoid any impropriety and demonstrate impartiality in their roles to build trust in the Speaker's office and uphold democratic principles.

### **An unfolding economic tragedy-The Hindu Editorial**

Economics

#### **Key Takeaways**

**1. Misleading GDP Focus:** India's fixation on GDP as a measure of success is problematic, as it conceals inequalities and distracts from pressing issues.

**2. India's Growth Expectations:** India should naturally grow rapidly as the poorest among major economies, but it has failed to consistently achieve this.

**3. Rollercoaster GDP Growth:** India's GDP growth has fluctuated, with highs in the mid-2000s, followed by a drop after the global financial crisis, a temporary spike, and a sharp slowdown pre-COVID.

**4. Inadequate GDP Measurement:** The method of calculating GDP based on income from production is flawed, and a more accurate approach would consider income and expenditure.





**5. Post-COVID Challenges:** Weak post-COVID demand is evident in declining private corporate investment, basic goods offered in smaller quantities, and increased credit card debt.

**6. Policy Failures:** Government policies have focused on supply-side measures, such as tax cuts and infrastructure projects, instead of addressing the demand-side issues, potentially leading to tragic economic consequences.

### **Mains easy language**

In India, the celebration of rapid GDP growth can be misleading. GDP is often hailed as a sign of economic success, but it doesn't tell the whole story. It hides inequalities and diverts attention from pressing issues like unemployment, education, healthcare, urban problems, a broken legal system, and environmental concerns.

India, as the poorest among major economies, should naturally grow faster. However, it has struggled to consistently achieve this. Its GDP growth has been like a rollercoaster, with highs and lows. After the global financial crisis, GDP growth slowed, and it continued to fluctuate. Post-COVID, the economy has seen ups and downs, with challenges like declining private corporate investment and rising credit card debt due to weakened demand.

Government policies have focused on supply-side measures, like tax cuts and infrastructure projects. These haven't addressed the core issue of weak demand, which could lead to tragic economic consequences. A more accurate approach to assessing India's economic health is needed, one that considers both income and expenditure. Despite the persistent narrative of high growth, a realistic growth forecast suggests a more modest outlook for the Indian economy, around 3% to 4%. This highlights the urgency of addressing the demand-side challenges facing India's economy.

### **The Indian Railways' revenue problem-The Hindu Text and Context**

#### **Economics**

#### **Key Takeaways**

**1. Debt Reliance:** Indian Railways depends heavily on debt, impacting its financial health. Merging budgets increased Gross Budgetary Support but also raised debt liabilities.

**2. Investment vs. Revenue:** Rail investments should boost revenue. The focus should be on ensuring these investments lead to increased earnings.

**3. Passenger vs. Freight:** The Railways struggles with a profitable freight segment and loss-making passenger services. Addressing this requires boosting freight revenues.

**4. Simplifying Freight Business:** Streamlining cargo categorization into bulk and non-bulk would simplify operations and enhance efficiency.

**5. Shrinking Share in Key Commodities:** Railways' share in transporting critical commodities like coal, iron ore, and cement has been decreasing, despite efforts to improve it.

**6. Fluctuating Performance Index:** The Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKM) fluctuates, impacted by factors like demonetization, and its growth lags behind road transport.





## Mains easy language

The Indian Railways is facing financial challenges, and this article provides a straightforward overview of the key issues. First, the Railways has taken on a significant amount of debt to finance its operations. Merging budgets allowed for more government support, but it also meant more debt repayment, which now consumes a substantial portion of the revenue.

Secondly, while investments in the Railways have many benefits for the economy, these investments should also contribute to the organization's income. Currently, there's a disconnect between investment and revenue, which needs to be addressed.

One major problem is the stark difference between the Railways' profitable freight business and its loss-making passenger services. Losses in passenger services are a big concern and need to be tackled by boosting revenue from freight services.

Simplifying the freight business is also crucial. The Railways currently categorizes cargo into goods and parcels, which makes things needlessly complex. A shift to categorizing cargo as bulk and non-bulk, based on their characteristics, would streamline operations and save costs.

Additionally, the Railways' share in transporting vital commodities like coal, iron ore, and cement has been shrinking over the years. Despite efforts, there's been limited improvement in this area.

Lastly, the Railways' performance index, called Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKM), has been inconsistent, with factors like demonetization affecting its growth. This index lags behind road transport, highlighting another challenge the Railways faces.

### What has caused the recent thaw in U.S.Venezuela ties?-The Hindu Text and Context

International relations

#### Key Takeaways

- 1. Thaw in U.S.-Venezuela Ties:** The U.S. has decided to ease sanctions on Venezuela's energy sector in exchange for the promise of free and fair elections in 2024.
- 2. Influence of Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** The Russia-Ukraine war played a role in this decision, with the U.S. seeking to address energy challenges arising from the conflict.
- 3. Security Concerns:** The U.S. is concerned about potential regional security issues due to Russia's support for its Latin American allies.
- 4. Impact on President Maduro:** The decision could help President Maduro, ending his international isolation and aiding Venezuela's economy.
- 5. Challenges for Venezuelan Opposition:** The opposition faces fragmentation and resistance from the Maduro government, despite gaining popularity.
- 6. Conditions for Further Sanctions Relief:** The extent of sanctions relief will depend on Venezuela's progress toward democracy, with a focus on stopping the country's decline.

## Mains easy language



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In simple terms, the United States has decided to ease tough sanctions on Venezuela's energy sector, like oil and mining, as long as Venezuela's President, Nicolas Maduro, commits to holding free and fair elections in 2024. This is a significant development in U.S.-Venezuela relations.

The reason behind this change is partly due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. When that war happened, the U.S. realized it needed to talk to Venezuela because it has a lot of oil, which is crucial for energy. There were also concerns that Russia might support its Latin American allies in case of a bigger conflict with the U.S., which raised regional security worries.

For President Maduro, this is a big deal. His government faced isolation after the U.S. cut ties with Venezuela. These eased sanctions could help the country's economy, especially its oil production, and give it access to U.S. financial markets.

However, it's not all smooth sailing. The Venezuelan opposition is in a bit of a mess. They've gained popularity but are divided, and they're still up against a powerful Maduro government. Also, Venezuela has been dealing with a major crisis, causing millions to leave the country and international concerns about human rights abuses.

One key opposition figure, Maria Corina Machado, won a big victory in the recent opposition primary. Still, she was disqualified from public office due to corruption allegations and support for U.S. sanctions. Her victory might not guarantee her a shot at challenging President Maduro.

The U.S. says they'll keep an eye on Venezuela's progress toward democracy before further relaxing sanctions. The main focus is on stopping Venezuela's decline.

### **Was Turkiye earthquake due to interrupted 'chat' between fault lines? – The Hindu Science**

Geography

#### **Key Takeaways**

- 1. Unprecedented Earthquakes:** In February 2023, Turkey and Syria were struck by unusually powerful earthquakes, resulting in significant destruction and loss of life.
- 2. Fault Line Dialogue:** These earthquakes occurred along the East and North Anatolian Fault Lines, which were found to be in constant "conversation" through stress interactions, shedding light on earthquake behavior.
- 3. Seismic Cascade Disruption:** During these seismic events, a cascade effect disrupted the usual fault interactions, amplifying the potential for destruction and even creating craters in some areas.
- 4. Comparative Analysis:** Scientists employed advanced techniques such as kinematic slip inversion and fault-property modeling to better understand fault movement and predict how earthquakes propagate.
- 5. Policy Implications:** These earthquakes serve as a stark reminder of the need for robust earthquake preparedness, stringent building codes, and their consistent enforcement. Lapses in these areas had serious consequences.
- 6. Lessons for Disaster Management:** This research underscores the unpredictable nature of seismic events and highlights the critical importance of sound disaster management and policy. Proper preparedness and strict safety measures are essential to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.



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## Mains easy language

In February 2023, Turkey and Syria experienced massive and unprecedented earthquakes that caused significant destruction and loss of life. These powerful earthquakes occurred along the East and North Anatolian Fault Lines, which are geological boundaries where tectonic plates interact. Scientists studying these events made a fascinating discovery: the fault lines were essentially engaged in a constant "conversation" through stress interactions, which is essential for understanding how earthquakes work.

During these particular earthquakes, something unusual happened. It was like an interruption in the fault line dialogue, causing a seismic "cascade" that broke through fault bends and step-overs, creating larger-than-expected destruction. Some areas even ended up with craters due to this disruption.

To understand all of this, scientists used advanced methods like kinematic slip inversion and fault-property modeling. These methods helped them analyze how fault surfaces moved and estimate the characteristics of the fault itself.

The research also highlighted the importance of earthquake preparedness and strict enforcement of building codes. While Turkey was aware of the earthquake risk, not all safety measures were enforced uniformly, which led to more severe consequences.

Ultimately, this study serves as a stark reminder of the unpredictable nature of seismic events and the critical role of robust disaster management and policies to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. Proper preparedness and the consistent enforcement of safety measures are vital for our safety.

### The gravitational constant-The Hindu Science

Science and technology

#### Key takeaways

1. **What Is It?** The gravitational constant, denoted as 'G,' is a fundamental physical constant that plays a vital role in understanding how gravity works.
2. **Warping Space-Time:** Any mass in the universe warps the fabric of space-time around it. The more massive an object is, the more it warps space-time. This warping creates a force called gravity, which pulls objects towards the mass.
3. **Historical Significance:** Henry Cavendish accurately determined the value of G in 1797. It's a critical component in both Isaac Newton's law of universal gravitation and Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity.
4. **Newton's Theory:** In Newton's theory, the force of gravity between two objects is directly proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. G is the constant that governs this relationship.
5. **Einstein's Theory:** In Einstein's theory of general relativity, G appears in the equations that describe the curvature (warping) of space-time due to mass and energy. This theory provides a more accurate description of gravity, especially in extreme conditions near massive celestial objects.
6. **Crucial for Celestial Mechanics:** The precise value of G is essential for understanding how celestial bodies behave and determining their mass. However, despite its importance, G's value is only known with an uncertainty of about 22 parts per million. Researchers in experimental physics continue to work on improving this measurement.





## Mains easy language

The gravitational constant, known as 'G,' is a fundamental concept in understanding how gravity works. Imagine that any object with mass warps the space and time around it, like a heavy ball on a stretched rubber sheet. The more massive the object, the deeper the warp, and this warping creates a force we call gravity, which pulls other objects toward it.

Historically, Henry Cavendish accurately measured the value of G in 1797. This constant is a key player in two fundamental theories: Isaac Newton's law of universal gravitation and Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Newton's theory tells us that the force of gravity between two objects depends on their masses and the distance between them. G is the number that makes this relationship work. In Einstein's theory, G appears in equations that describe how space and time warp due to mass and energy. This theory helps us understand gravity better, especially near massive celestial objects.

The value of G is vital for studying celestial bodies and determining their mass. But there's a catch – we're not entirely sure about its exact value. Our current measurement of G has an uncertainty of about 22 parts per million, and researchers in experimental physics are working hard to improve this measurement. Understanding G better helps us unlock the secrets of gravity in the universe.

**31st October 2023**

### **The IsraelPalestine conflict is at bend point-The Hindu Editorial**

International Relations

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1. Recent Violence:** The article starts by addressing the recent conflict in Gaza, where the author's former residence was destroyed. The author condemns the violence, including a Hamas terror attack on Israel, emphasizing that there's no justification for terrorism.
- 2. Two-State Solution:** The article highlights that the UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 call for a "Land For Peace" principle, suggesting that Israel should withdraw from occupied lands in exchange for peace. The author argues that a two-state solution is the only path to lasting peace.
- 3. Dehumanization:** The article criticizes the dehumanization of Palestinians in the media and emphasizes the importance of recognizing the human tragedy in the conflict.
- 4. Arab Involvement:** The author discusses the role of Arab countries in normalizing relations with Israel, sometimes at the expense of the Palestinian issue. The article questions whether these efforts truly promote security and stability in the region.
- 5. Israel's Role:** The article points out Israel's role in making the two-state solution more challenging and its history of actions that have impacted the Palestinian cause.
- 6. Historical Perspective:** The author observes that the Israel-Palestine conflict has seen cycles of violence, agreements, and non-implementation. The article suggests that a more tangible solution is needed to avoid further tragedy.
- 7. India's Stand:** The article notes India's support for a two-state solution but emphasizes the importance of addressing the human tragedy in Gaza and calls for a stronger stance in this regard.

## Mains easy language

This article delves into the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, touching on several key aspects in a simple manner.

Firstly, it mentions the recent violence in Gaza, with the author expressing concern over his former home being destroyed. He condemns both the violence carried out by Hamas and the Israeli response, highlighting the importance of rejecting terrorism.

The article stresses the significance of a two-state solution, a concept rooted in UN resolutions, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories in exchange for peace. The author argues that this approach is the most likely path to lasting harmony in the region.





The piece also highlights the dehumanization of Palestinians in the media, a dangerous perspective that can lead to indifference to the suffering of innocent lives in the conflict.

The author questions the stance of Arab countries that have been normalizing relations with Israel, sometimes at the expense of the Palestinian issue, which he believes may not ensure long-term security in the region.

Israel's role in making the two-state solution increasingly difficult is discussed, along with its historical actions that have affected the Palestinian cause.

The article takes a historical perspective, noting a cyclical pattern of violence, agreements, and non-implementation in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Lastly, it urges India to not only support a two-state solution but also to take a more forceful stand against the human tragedy unfolding in Gaza, given its proximity to Israel and the United States.

### [The COVID19 death toll in India, getting it right-The hindu editorial](#)

Economics

#### **Key takeaways:**

- 1. Challenges in Data:** India struggled to estimate COVID-19-related deaths due to incomplete and varying death registration across states. The second wave in 2021 and the lack of timely data added complexity.
- 2. Data Compilation and Estimation:** Investigators collected mortality records from multiple sources, including the Civil Registration System (CRS), in several states and cities from 2018 to 2021. Scientific teams used this data to estimate excess mortality.
- 3. Variability in Estimates:** Estimates of COVID-19-related deaths in India vary widely among studies due to differences in methods and data assumptions. Some studies faced limitations, while others had information biases.
- 4. The Need for a Task Force:** A national task force of experts is needed to address data challenges. This task force should access relevant data sources to conduct a thorough analysis.
- 5. Importance of District-Level Data:** Accurate district-level mortality data is vital for evidence-based health interventions. A detailed analysis would conclude the debate on pandemic mortality and enhance local data quality.
- 6. Strengthening Cause of Death Attribution:** Improving the attribution of causes of death is crucial through medical certification and interviews. The National Task Force and data quality initiatives will enhance the utility of the CRS for mortality measurement in India.

#### **Mains easy language**

In India, understanding the true impact of COVID-19 has been a complex puzzle. The key challenge is that we don't have a complete and consistent record of deaths, making it hard to accurately measure the number of COVID-19-related fatalities. With only about 70% of deaths registered in the country and varying registration rates across different regions, it's a tough task. The situation became even more challenging during the second wave of the pandemic in 2021. Additionally, there's no timely data available for weekly or monthly deaths, which is crucial for assessing the pandemic's impact. To tackle these problems, independent investigators collected death records from various sources spanning from 2018 to 2021. These records became the foundation for estimating the excess mortality caused by COVID-19. However, different studies provided a wide range of estimates, leading to debates and controversies. To address these issues, there's a call for a national task force of experts to thoroughly analyze the data. This task force would have access to all the relevant information needed to provide more reliable estimates. This isn't just about getting the numbers right; it's about having accurate data to guide healthcare interventions at the local level. Improving data quality and attributing causes of death more accurately are crucial steps forward. This will help us better understand the pandemic's impact in India and improve the country's healthcare system.





### To clear the air- Indian Express Editorial

Environment

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Air Quality Life Index (AQLI):** A recent AQLI report reveals that Indians, particularly in Delhi, are losing years of life expectancy due to air pollution's health effects.
2. **Widespread Pollution:** Many Indian cities, including Delhi, feature prominently among the world's most polluted cities. Rural areas are also affected by dust and biomass fuel emissions.
3. **Types of Pollutants:** Various pollutants are monitored, including particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, ammonia, and lead. Benzene, formaldehyde, and cadmium are also concerning pollutants.
4. **Air Quality Standards:** India's national air quality standards are less stringent than WHO standards, and there is a need to align them more closely to mitigate health risks.
5. **Geographic Variations:** The Indo-Gangetic plain experiences higher pollution levels due to limited dispersal, exacerbated during the cold winter season when pollutants accumulate.
6. **Sources of Pollution:** Pollution sources include vehicles, power plants, garbage dumps, forest fires, and household use of biomass fuels and open-fire cooking stoves.
7. **Health Impacts:** Air pollution can lead to various health issues, including cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, cancers, diabetes, dementia, and birth defects, particularly impacting children and pregnant women.

#### **Mains in Easy Language**

The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report has shed light on the profound impact of air pollution on life expectancy in India, with Delhi bearing the brunt of the crisis. This issue is not limited to the capital; many Indian cities feature prominently among the world's most polluted, raising serious public health concerns. India's air quality standards are less stringent than those set by the World Health Organization (WHO), underscoring the necessity for more rigorous regulations to protect the population.

The Indo-Gangetic plain, a geographically challenged region with limited dispersal, experiences the most severe pollution levels. These levels worsen during the harsh winter season when stagnant air traps pollutants. Practices like crop residue burning and garbage incineration further compound the issue, leading to health problems and discomfort for the population.

Pollution sources vary across different regions of India, with contributors ranging from vehicles and power plants to open-fire cooking stoves and biomass fuel use. To tackle this multifaceted problem, India must adopt a comprehensive approach that includes transitioning to clean transport, increasing the use of public transportation, shifting to renewable energy sources, and discontinuing harmful practices like crop residue and garbage burning. Robust public policy, stringent enforcement, and vigilant monitoring are crucial components of this endeavor to combat the severe air pollution crisis and safeguard public health.

### Towards stabilisation of U.S.China ties-The Hindu editorial

International relations

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1.**U.S.-China Relations on the Mend:**Talks indicate a shift towards stabilizing the U.S.-China relationship. The potential for a presidential summit emerges, signifying a move away from previous tension.
- 2.**Influence on West Asia:**The U.S.'s engagement with China can impact West Asia. China's influence on Iran and its connection to Hezbollah in Lebanon have the potential to affect regional stability, particularly in the context of the Gaza conflict.
- 3.**U.S. Position:**The U.S. maintains a tough stance on various issues with China, including trade and export controls, leveraging its economic strength.



| Clear your doubts now.



**4.China's Stance:**China seeks cooperation and peaceful coexistence with the U.S., aiming for recognition of its political and economic system, including the supremacy of the Chinese Communist Party.

**5.Global Politics and Hegemony:**The relationship between the U.S. and China is critical for addressing global issues, including climate change and conflicts in West Asia, but remains competitive. The U.S. seeks to prevent any emerging hegemonic power at either end of Eurasia, preserving its global dominance.

### **Mains easy language**

In simple terms, the relationship between the United States and China is undergoing some changes. They're talking to each other more than before, and there's a chance that their leaders might have a summit soon. While we can't call it complete peace just yet, it's a step towards stabilizing the situation between these two powerful nations.

Why does this matter? Well, it can affect what happens in West Asia. China has some influence on Iran, which, in turn, has connections to groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon. If these groups get involved in conflicts, it could create problems in the region. The U.S. is currently in a strong position with a healthy economy, and it's being tough on China when it comes to things like trade and high-tech exports. On the other hand, China wants to cooperate with the U.S. and have a peaceful coexistence. They also want the U.S. to recognize their political system, which is led by the Chinese Communist Party.

This is all part of a bigger picture. The U.S. wants to maintain its global power and is trying to make sure no one else becomes too powerful. So, while there's competition, there's also a hope for practical cooperation between these two giants. The upcoming summit between their leaders might be a start in that direction.

### **Easing the transport of cargo by Railways-The Hindu text and context**

Economics

#### **Key takeaways:**

**1.Government Initiatives for Rail Cargo:**The Indian government has introduced the PM GatiShakti (PMGS) policy and the National Logistics Policy (NLP) to enhance the railway sector.

**2.Challenges in Bulk Cargo Transport:**Despite initiatives, the Indian Railways faces challenges, and its share in bulk cargo transportation is declining.

**3.Accessibility for Small Industries:**Small industries struggle with the cost of railway sidings, leading to higher logistics expenses and a preference for other transportation methods.

**4.Collaboration with State Governments:**Collaborating with state governments is essential to establish common-user facilities in key clusters, including mining and industrial areas and large cities.

**5.Diversifying Cargo Types:**The Indian Railways should explore new cargo types like fly ash and adapt wagon designs for more efficient loading.

**6.Environmental Regulations and Mode-agnostic Policies:**Environmental regulations have made rail loading facilities mandatory, prompting some users to opt for road transport due to high costs. Mode-agnostic policies are needed to support rail transportation.

### **Mains easy language**

The article discusses how the Indian Railways, which is a cost-effective way to transport large amounts of goods, is facing challenges and what steps are being taken to address them.

Firstly, the government has introduced two policies, PM GatiShakti and the National Logistics Policy, to improve the railway sector. Despite these efforts, the Railways is losing its share of bulk cargo transport. Small industries find it difficult to afford the infrastructure needed to load their cargo onto trains, which drives up their costs and makes them choose other transportation options.





To improve this situation, it's important for the Railways to work closely with state governments to create facilities in areas where there's a lot of mining and industry, as well as in large cities. The Railways should also explore carrying new types of cargo, like fly ash, and adapt its equipment to load goods more efficiently.

Environmental regulations have made it mandatory to have certain facilities for loading and unloading cargo by train. This has led some businesses to opt for road transport, which is less regulated and sometimes cheaper. It's important that regulations consider the mode of transportation and the potential for environmental harm so that rail transport isn't unfairly disadvantaged.

In simple terms, the article highlights challenges the Indian Railways faces in moving goods, and how government policies and changes in approach can help overcome these challenges for more efficient cargo transport by train.

### **The expansion of settlements into flood prone areas- The hindu text and context**

Disaster management

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1. Rising Flood Risk:** A World Bank-led study found that Indian cities are facing increasing flood risks due to urban expansion into flood-prone areas since 1985.
- 2. India's Risk:** Although India is not among the top 20 countries most exposed to floods, it ranks third globally in contributing to settlements expanding into flood-prone regions.
- 3. Vulnerable Populations:** Informal and low-income housing is disproportionately affected by floods, as it often exists in low-lying areas.
- 4. Governance Challenges:** The study points to a lack of governance processes restricting unsustainable development in flood-prone regions.
- 5. Adaptation and Planning:** Recognizing flood-prone areas and promoting flood-resilient housing is crucial for sustainable urban planning.
- 6. Innovative Solutions:** Communities like the Mishing and Miyah use stilt houses to protect against floods, providing examples for safeguarding low-income housing.

#### **Mains easy language**

Recent research by the World Bank, shared in the journal Nature, highlights a concerning trend in India. Cities across the country are facing an increasing risk of floods due to the expansion of urban areas into flood-prone regions. Since 1985, the number of human settlements in these areas has more than doubled, emphasizing the unsustainable growth pattern. India ranks third globally, following China and the U.S., in contributing to settlements expanding into flood-prone areas, indicating significant flood-related risks.

The most vulnerable populations are those residing in informal and low-income housing, often situated in low-lying regions susceptible to flooding. The study underscores a lack of effective governance processes to regulate environmentally unsustainable development. Current regulations are often selectively applied, especially to small and medium-scale projects, leading to uncontrolled expansion.

To address this growing issue, experts emphasize the importance of recognizing flood-prone areas, differentiating between low-income and elite housing, and promoting scientific mapping of these regions. Urban governments should prioritize flood-resilient housing and look to innovative solutions like stilt houses used by certain communities along rivers.

In conclusion, as India's cities continue to expand, it's critical to understand and manage flood risks, ensuring sustainable urban planning and safeguarding vulnerable populations.

### **Issues in electoral bonds case-Indian Express Explained**

Polity



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### Key Takeaways:

1. **Supreme Court Hearing:** A five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India, D Y Chandrachud, will begin hearing petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the electoral bonds scheme.
2. **Electoral Bonds Introduction:** The electoral bonds, introduced in 2018, are interest-free "bearer instruments" that allow anyone in India to anonymously donate money to political parties. They can be purchased in denominations ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 crore during specific windows in January, April, July, and October.
3. **Intended Purpose:** The scheme aimed to improve transparency in political funding and reduce anonymous donations. It was introduced to address the challenge of opaque political funding, which had persisted for years.
4. **Challenges to the Scheme:** Public service NGOs, including Common Cause and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), challenged the scheme in court, arguing that it bypassed the Rajya Sabha and opened doors to unlimited political donations, including from foreign companies, legitimizing electoral corruption.
5. **Court's Previous Stance:** The Supreme Court had previously ordered safeguards, requiring political parties to submit details of donations received through electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India in a sealed cover.

### Mains in Easy Language:

A five-judge Supreme Court bench, headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, is set to commence hearings on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the electoral bonds scheme introduced by the Indian government in 2018. These bonds allow anonymous donations to political parties and were intended to enhance transparency in political funding.

The electoral bonds, available in various denominations, can be purchased during specific timeframes. The central government introduced this scheme to address long-standing issues of opaque political funding and anonymous donations.

Public service NGOs, such as Common Cause and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), had challenged the scheme, contending that it bypassed the Rajya Sabha and opened the door to unlimited, including foreign, political contributions, thereby endorsing electoral corruption.

The Supreme Court had previously ordered safeguards, requiring political parties to submit details of donations received through electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India in a sealed cover. Now, the court will consider the constitutional validity of the scheme, with the potential to impact transparency and funding in Indian politics.

### [IIT team finds carbon 'flowers' excelling at turning light to heat-The hindu science](#)

Science

#### Key takeaways:

1. **Carbon Nanoflowers with Exceptional Efficiency:** Researchers at IIT Bombay have developed carbon nanoflowers that exhibit an unprecedented efficiency of 87% in converting sunlight into heat.
2. **Versatile Applications for Heating and Sterilization:** These nanoflowers can be coated on various surfaces to efficiently heat homes and sterilize surfaces, making them practical for both domestic and healthcare applications.
3. **Sustainable and Cost-Effective Heating Solution:** The nanoflowers offer an ecologically sustainable method of heating without the need for burning fossil fuels, making them a cost-effective and eco-friendly solution.
4. **Broad Spectrum Light Absorption:** Carbon nanoflowers can absorb sunlight at multiple frequencies, including infrared, visible light, and ultraviolet, allowing them to capture more energy from the sun.
5. **Minimal Heat Dissipation:** The unique structure of carbon nanoflowers minimizes heat dissipation into the environment, ensuring efficient heat retention for practical applications.
6. **Commercialization and Ongoing Research:** Researchers have received a patent for the nanoflowers and are actively working on commercialization, while also exploring additional physical and chemical properties for potential new applications.

#### Mains easy language



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Researchers at IIT Bombay have created a remarkable breakthrough by developing carbon nanoflowers that can efficiently convert sunlight into heat. These tiny structures exhibit an impressive efficiency of 87%, making them highly effective at capturing and transforming solar energy. The potential applications for these nanoflowers are quite diverse. They can be coated on various surfaces to heat homes and sterilize hospital equipment, offering a cost-effective and eco-friendly solution for both domestic and healthcare needs.

One of the key advantages of these carbon nanoflowers is their ability to absorb a wide range of sunlight frequencies, including infrared, visible light, and ultraviolet. This sets them apart from conventional solar-thermal materials and allows them to harness more energy from the sun. Furthermore, their unique structure prevents excessive heat loss into the environment, ensuring that the generated heat is effectively retained.

The researchers have even patented this innovative technology and are enthusiastic about its commercial potential. It has the potential to offer sustainable heating without the need for burning fossil fuels, making it an ecologically responsible choice, particularly in regions with abundant sunlight and low temperatures. As they continue to explore the nanoflowers' physical and chemical properties, there may be additional unexplored applications, and they are actively working on scaling up production for broader use. This discovery represents a significant step forward in the quest for practical and eco-friendly solar heating solutions.

### **On World Thrift Day, think of physics-The hindu science**

Science

#### **Key takeaways:**

- 1. World Thrift Day and the Economical Universe:** World Thrift Day, celebrated on October 31, promotes saving money and financial prudence. This concept of thrift extends beyond our finances and also characterizes the universe.
- 2. The Principle of Least Action:** Physicists attribute the universe's thriftiness to the principle of least action. In physics, action is defined as the change in a system's energy over time, resulting in conservation laws.
- 3. Nature's Economical Path:** Nature tends to follow an economical path, from the subatomic world to galaxies, where systems evolve to minimize action based on the desired outcome.
- 4. Examples in Nature:** This principle is observed in everyday life. Water adapts to its surroundings, light bends when transitioning between mediums, and objects in motion choose paths that minimize energy.
- 5. Metaphysical and Philosophical Implications:** The principle of least action has implications in metaphysics and philosophy, raising questions that scholars debate. Physicists use it mathematically but have not empirically proven it.
- 6. A Profound Idea:** The principle of least action has significantly impacted various fields, including fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, string theory, classical electrodynamics, quantum field theory, and Morse theory in mathematics, yielding knowledge and advancements.

#### **Mains easy language**

World Thrift Day, celebrated on October 31, encourages saving money and being financially responsible. Interestingly, this idea of thriftiness isn't confined to our wallets; it's a fundamental part of how the universe works.

In the world of physics, this universal thriftiness is attributed to something called the "principle of least action." This principle explains that when any physical system changes over time, it does so in a way that conserves energy and momentum. In simpler terms, nothing is wasted or destroyed; everything is conserved.

From the tiniest particles to the grandest galaxies, everything in the universe follows a path that minimizes or maximizes some action depending on the situation. It's like nature has an inbuilt sense of efficiency, just like you might choose the shortest path to a destination.

This principle can be seen in everyday examples. Water in a stream doesn't insist on a straight line; it flows around obstacles. Light bends when it moves from air to water. Even planets moving around the sun and objects thrown into the air take paths that minimize energy.







While we still don't fully understand why nature is so thrifty, this principle has greatly benefited fields like physics, mathematics, and more. It's a profound idea that shows how the universe operates efficiently and consistently, just like we should with our finances.

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