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7. Budget Session of Parliament from January 31 to April 4
संसद का बजट सत्र 31 जनवरी से 4 अप्रैल तक (GS Paper II:
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Gaza truce deal gets Israel Security Cabinet approval

The deal now goes to Israel's full Cabinet of Ministers for final sign-off; the ceasefire could start as early as tomorrow; however, the pact has drawn fierce resistance from Netanyahu's far-right allies

GS Paper II: West Asia

Associated Press

JERUSALEM

Israel's security Cabinet recommended approval on Friday of a ceasefire deal after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed an agreement had been reached that would pause the 15-month war with Hamas in Gaza and release dozens of hostages held by militants there.

Mediators Qatar and the U.S. announced the ceasefire on Wednesday, but the deal hung in limbo for more than a day as Mr. Netanyahu insisted there were last-minute snags he blamed on Hamas.

The militants maintained they were "committed" to the deal, while residents of Gaza and families of the hostages anxiously



Celebration time: People celebrate the news of a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, in Amman, Jordan, on Friday. REUTERS

waited to see if it would materialise.

The deal now goes to the full Cabinet of Ministers for final sign-off. It is expected to approve the ceasefire, which could start as soon as Sunday, even though it has drawn fierce resistance from Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners. Their objections could destabilise his government, however.

Hamis triggered the war with its October 7, 2023, cross-border attack into Israel that killed some 1,200 people and left some 250 others captive.

Israel responded with a devastating offensive that

has killed over 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and militants but say women and children make up more than half of those killed.

Beyond the death and destruction in Gaza, the conflict has also destabilised West Asia and sparked worldwide protests.

On Thursday, Israeli strikes killed at least 72 people in Gaza. In previous conflicts, both sides have stepped up military operations in the final hours before ceasefires as a way to project strength.

Mr. Netanyahu instructed a special task force to prepare to receive the hostages returning from Gaza.

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Gaza Truce Deal Gets Israel Security Cabinet Approval

गाजा संघर्ष विराम समझौते को इजराइल सुरक्षा कैबिनेट की मंजूरी

- The Security Cabinet of Israel recommended approval of a ceasefire deal after **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** confirmed an agreement to pause the 15-month war with Hamas in Gaza and release hostages.
- इजराइल की सुरक्षा कैबिनेट ने हमास के साथ गाजा में 15 महीने के युद्ध को रोकने और बंधकों को रिहा करने के लिए संघर्ष विराम समझौते को मंजूरी देने की सिफारिश की।



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- Mediators **Qatar** and the **U.S.** announced the ceasefire on **Wednesday**, but last-minute issues delayed the agreement.
मध्यस्थ कतर और अमेरिका ने बुधवार को संघर्ष विराम की घोषणा की, लेकिन अंतिम समय में समस्याओं ने समझौते में देरी कर दी।
- Hamas stated its commitment to the deal, while Gaza residents and hostages' families waited for its implementation.
हमास ने समझौते के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता जताई, जबकि गाजा के निवासियों और बंधकों के परिवार इसके क्रियान्वयन का इंतजार कर रहे थे।
- The deal now moves to Israel's **full Cabinet of Ministers** for final approval, expected to happen by **Sunday**.
यह समझौता अब अंतिम मंजूरी के लिए इजराइल की पूर्ण मंत्रिमंडल के पास जाएगा, जो संभवतः रविवार तक हो सकता है।
- The ceasefire faces **opposition from Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners**, which could destabilize his government.
यह संघर्ष विराम नेतन्याहू के कट्टर-दक्षिणपंथी गठबंधन सहयोगियों से विरोध का सामना कर रहा है, जिससे उनकी सरकार अस्थिर हो सकती है।
- **Hamas** initiated the conflict on **October 7, 2023**, with a cross-border attack killing around **1,200 people** and capturing **250 hostages**.
हमास ने 7 अक्टूबर 2023 को सीमा पार हमले के साथ संघर्ष शुरू किया, जिसमें लगभग 1,200 लोग मारे गए और 250 बंधक बनाए गए।
- Israel's counter-offensive killed over **46,000 Palestinians**, with **women and children** constituting more than half of the casualties.
इजराइल की जवाबी कार्रवाई में 46,000 से अधिक फिलिस्तीनी मारे गए, जिनमें से महिलाएं और बच्चे आधे से अधिक हैं।
- The conflict has destabilized **West Asia** and sparked global protests.
इस संघर्ष ने पश्चिम एशिया को अस्थिर कर दिया है और वैश्विक विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू कर दिए हैं।
- On **Thursday**, Israeli airstrikes killed at least **72 people** in Gaza.
गुरुवार को इजराइली हवाई हमलों में गाजा में कम से कम 72 लोग मारे गए।
- Military operations on both sides often intensify just before ceasefires to project strength.
संघर्ष विराम से पहले दोनों पक्षों द्वारा सैन्य अभियानों को अक्सर तेज कर दिया जाता है ताकत दिखाने के लिए।
- Netanyahu directed a **special task force** to prepare for the **return of hostages** from Gaza.
नेतन्याहू ने गाजा से बंधकों की वापसी के लिए विशेष टास्क फोर्स को तैयार करने का निर्देश दिया।

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At least 126 Indians joined Russia Army, 16 'missing', says Centre

GS Paper II

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The government is aware of at least 126 cases of Indians who joined the Russian Army to fight in the war in Ukraine, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday, indicating their numbers continue to rise despite efforts to stop them.

According to the latest figures released, of the 126 Indian men that the Indian Embassy in Moscow has been intimated about, 96 have returned to India thus far. Of the remainder, 12 have been killed in the conflict, including one from Kerala, who died last week, and one is being treated for injuries at a hospital in Moscow. As many as 16 are believed to be "missing", as officials said they could not be traced at present.

"Their whereabouts are not known, and the Russian side has categorised them as missing," said MEA spokesperson Rand-



The Indian Embassy in Moscow has been informed about 126 men in Russian armed forces.

hir Jaiswal, detailing the figures.

"We remain engaged with the Russian authorities to ascertain the whereabouts of the missing Indian nationals, as also seeking early release and repatriation of those who remain," he added.

On the two most recent casualties, Mr. Jaiswal said that the Indian embassy officials were in touch with Russian authorities to en-

sure that the mortal remains of Binil Babu, a 32-year-old from Thrissur district in Kerala who succumbed to injuries from a drone attack last week, are brought back to India at the earliest. Before he died, Mr. Babu was reportedly in contact with the Embassy, and had wanted to return home.

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कम से कम 126 भारतीय रूस की सेना में शामिल हुए, 16 'लापता', केंद्र ने कहा

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- The **government** is aware of **126 cases of Indians** who joined the **Russian Army** to fight in the war in **Ukraine**, the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** said on **Friday**, indicating their numbers continue to rise despite efforts to stop them.
सरकार को 126 भारतीयों के मामलों की जानकारी है, जिन्होंने रूस की सेना में शामिल होकर यूक्रेन युद्ध में लड़ाई की, विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने शुक्रवार को कहा, यह दर्शाते हुए कि उन्हें रोकने के प्रयासों के बावजूद उनकी संख्या बढ़ रही है।
- According to the **latest figures**, of the **126 Indian men**, the **Indian Embassy in Moscow** has been informed about **96 who have returned to India**.
नवीनतम आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 126 भारतीय पुरुषों में से 96 भारत लौट चुके हैं, जिनकी जानकारी मॉस्को में भारतीय दूतावास को दी गई है।
- **12 Indians have been killed** in the conflict, including one from **Kerala**, who died last week, and **1 is being treated for injuries** at a hospital in **Moscow**.
12 भारतीयों की मौत इस संघर्ष में हो चुकी है, जिसमें एक केरल से है, जो पिछले हफ्ते मारा गया, और 1 व्यक्ति का इलाज मॉस्को के अस्पताल में चल रहा है।
- **16 Indians are believed to be "missing"**, as officials said they could not be traced at present.
16 भारतीयों के "लापता" होने की आशंका है, क्योंकि अधिकारी वर्तमान में उनका पता लगाने में असमर्थ हैं।
- "The **Russian side** has categorized them as **missing**," said **MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal**, detailing the figures.
"रूसी पक्ष ने उन्हें लापता के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया है," MEA प्रवक्ता रणधीर जयसवाल ने आंकड़े बताते हुए कहा।
- The **Indian government** remains in contact with **Russian authorities** to ascertain the **whereabouts** of the missing nationals and ensure their **early release and repatriation**.
भारतीय सरकार रूसी अधिकारियों के साथ संपर्क में है ताकि लापता नागरिकों का पता लगाया जा सके और उनकी जल्दी रिहाई और स्वदेश वापसी सुनिश्चित की जा सके।
- On the two most recent casualties, **Mr. Jaiswal** said that **Indian Embassy officials** are working to ensure the **mortal remains of Binil Babu**, a **32-year-old from Thrissur district in Kerala**, are brought back to India.
हालिया दो हताहतों पर, श्री जयसवाल ने कहा कि भारतीय दूतावास के अधिकारी 32 वर्षीय बिनिल बाबू (जो केरल के त्रिशूर जिले से थे) के शव को भारत वापस लाने के लिए काम कर रहे हैं।
- **Binil Babu** succumbed to injuries from a **drone attack** last week. Before he died, he had contacted the **Indian Embassy** and expressed a **desire to return home**.
बिनिल बाबू की मृत्यु पिछले सप्ताह ड्रोन हमले में लगी चोटों के कारण हुई। अपनी मृत्यु से पहले, उन्होंने भारतीय दूतावास से संपर्क किया था और घर लौटने की इच्छा व्यक्त की थी।



GS Paper I: Ancient History

Script reading

The deciphering of the Indus script should not be clouded by politics

The recent announcement by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, of a \$1-million prize scheme for deciphering the script of the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC), seems to have revived popular interest in the subject, which remains a puzzle to archaeologists, historians and linguists. His invitation for further research was made in the context of the centenary celebration of the IVC discovery, which was published by then chief of the Archaeological Survey of India, John Marshall, in September 1924. Spread across 1.5 million square kilometres in the territories of modern-day India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan during the Bronze Age (3000-1500 BCE), the IVC, also known as Harappan Civilisation, was regarded as complex as the better-known civilisations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and China. The Indus civilisation was essentially urban. Even though there has been a large number of objects and materials of archaeological value in support of the IVC, the decipherment of seals and tablets has not been to the satisfaction of all. About 20 years ago, a group of western scholars had argued that writing was not a necessity of ancient urban settlements, not even those as massive as those of the Harappans, and that “a handful of unknown symbols” could no longer be claimed as evidence of writing. Since then, there has been an exchange of scholarly views for and against the theory of the Indus civilisation being a highly literate society. It is against this context that Mr. Stalin’s announcement needs to be seen. There is also a school of thought that there was a script which was “proto-Dravidian”, “non-Aryan” and “pre-Aryan”. This could be a reason why a southern State, Tamil Nadu, has made the offer. The State government has also supported a study on Indus signs and graffiti marks of Tamil Nadu as part of a project of the documentation and the digitisation of graffiti and Tamil (Tamil-Brāhmi)-inscribed potsherds of Tamil Nadu.

Researchers face certain challenges while resolving the Indus riddle. There is a complaint that the entire database regarding the seals has not yet been made available in the public domain. While allowing free access to these resources, central and State authorities should ensure that context for them is also provided. More importantly, studies should be carried out without any interference. The likelihood of the proposed study’s findings going against the established and particular narrative should not be allowed to cloud intellectual pursuit. There is also scope for well-coordinated work among South Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, to unravel the mystery. But if political differences are permitted to adversely impact the execution of any such study, the world, and India, will be much the poorer for it.

The deciphering of the Indus script should not be clouded by politics

इंडस लिपि की समझ को राजनीति से प्रभावित नहीं होना चाहिए

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently announced a \$1-million prize scheme for deciphering the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) script, sparking renewed interest in the subject.

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री म.के. स्टालिन ने हाल ही में इंडस घाटी सभ्यता (IVC) की लिपि को समझने के लिए 1 मिलियन डॉलर के पुरस्कार योजना की घोषणा की, जिससे इस विषय में पुनः रुचि उत्पन्न हुई है।

- The announcement was made during the **centenary celebration of the IVC discovery**, which was first published by **John Marshall** in **September 1924**.

यह घोषणा IVC की खोज की शताब्दी समारोह के दौरान की गई थी, जिसे पहले **जॉन मार्शल** द्वारा **सितंबर 1924** में प्रकाशित किया गया था।

- The **Indus Valley Civilisation**, also known as the **Harappan Civilisation**, existed during the **Bronze Age (3000-1500 BCE)** across **1.5 million square kilometres**, covering **modern-day India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan**.

इंडस घाटी सभ्यता, जिसे **हरप्पा सभ्यता** भी कहा जाता है, **कांस्य युग (3000-1500 ई.पू.)** में **1.5 मिलियन वर्ग किलोमीटर** में फैली थी, जो **आधुनिक भारत, पाकिस्तान और अफगानिस्तान** के क्षेत्रों में थी।

- The **Indus Civilisation** was an urban society, regarded as complex like **Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China**.

इंडस सभ्यता एक शहरी समाज थी, जिसे **मेसोपोटामिया, मिस्र और चीन** जैसी सभ्यताओं के समान जटिल माना गया था।

- Despite numerous **archaeological discoveries**, the **deciphering of seals and tablets** from the IVC has not satisfied all scholars.



कई पुरातात्विक खोजों के बावजूद, IVC के मुहरों और तख्तियों की व्याख्या सभी विद्वानों को संतुष्ट नहीं कर पाई है।

- About **20 years ago**, a group of **Western scholars** argued that writing may not have been necessary in ancient urban settlements, including the **Harappans**, and that the symbols on seals should not be considered writing.

20 साल पहले, कुछ पश्चिमी विद्वानों ने यह तर्क किया कि प्राचीन शहरी बस्तियों में, जिसमें **हरप्पा भी शामिल है**, लेखन की आवश्यकता नहीं हो सकती थी, और मुहरों पर अंकित प्रतीकों को लेखन नहीं माना जाना चाहिए।

- Since then, there has been a debate over whether the **Indus civilisation** was a highly literate society.

उसके बाद से यह बहस जारी है कि **इंडस सभ्यता** एक अत्यधिक साक्षर समाज थी या नहीं।

- Some believe the script was "**proto-Dravidian**," "**non-Aryan**," and "**pre-Aryan**," which may explain why **Tamil Nadu** has shown interest.

कुछ का मानना है कि लिपि "**प्रोटो-द्रविड़**," "**गैर-आर्य**," और "**पूर्व-आर्य**" थी, जो यह समझा सकती है कि **तमिलनाडु** ने इसमें रुचि दिखाई है।

- The Tamil Nadu government has also supported a study on **Indus signs and graffiti marks** as part of a **documentation and digitisation project**.

तमिलनाडु सरकार ने **इंडस संकेतों और ग्रैफिटी चिहनों** पर एक अध्ययन को **डॉक्यूमेंटेशन और डिजिटलीकरण परियोजना** के तहत समर्थन किया है।

- Researchers face challenges due to the **unavailability of the entire seal database** to the public.

शोधकर्ताओं को **पूरा सील डेटाबेस** सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध न होने के कारण समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है।

- Authorities must ensure that **resources** are accessible and that the **context** for these seals is provided to aid research.

अधिकारियों को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि **संसाधन** सुलभ हों और इन मुहरों के लिए **संदर्भ** प्रदान किया जाए ताकि शोध में मदद मिल सके।

- The **study should proceed without interference**, as findings may challenge established narratives.

अध्ययन को बिना हस्तक्षेप के आगे बढ़ना चाहिए, क्योंकि इसके निष्कर्ष स्थापित कथाओं को चुनौती दे सकते हैं।

- There is scope for **coordinated work among South Asian countries**, including **Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan**, to unravel the mystery of the Indus script.

इंडस लिपि के रहस्य को सुलझाने के लिए दक्षिण एशियाई देशों, जिसमें **श्रीलंका, बांग्लादेश, पाकिस्तान और अफगानिस्तान** शामिल हैं, के बीच समन्वित कार्य का अवसर है।

- If **political differences** interfere with such studies, it would **hurt global understanding** and India's research efforts.



यदि राजनीतिक मतभेद इस प्रकार के अध्ययन में हस्तक्षेप करते हैं, तो यह वैश्विक समझ और भारत के शोध प्रयासों को नुकसान पहुंचाएगा।

India's real growth rate and the forecast

GS Paper III: National Accounting

The First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Accounts for 2024-25 show a real GDP growth of 6.4% and a nominal GDP growth of 9.7%. These numbers have fallen short of the Reserve Bank of India's revised growth estimate of 6.6% for real GDP, as in its December 2024 monetary policy statement and 10.5% for nominal GDP growth as in the 2024-25 Union Budget presented in July 2024.

The annual growth of 6.4% can be seen as consisting of 6% growth in the first half and 6.7% growth in the second half. There is, thus, a clear improvement expected over the Q2 growth of 5.4%. The sharp fall in 2024-25 annual GDP growth from that of the previous year at 8.2% is seen only in the case of GDP. With respect to Gross Value Added (GVA), this difference, between 7.2% and 6.4%, is much less. On the GVA side, it was the manufacturing sector which suffered a sharp fall in sectoral growth from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% in 2024-25.

Growth prospects for 2025-26

The Gross Fixed Capital Formation rate at constant prices has ranged between 33.3% and 33.5% during 2021-22 to 2024-25. Thus, it appears to have stabilised around 33.4%. It is expected to continue at this level in 2025-26. The average Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) has been marginally higher than 5 in recent years. Assuming ICOR to be 5.1 in 2025-26, we may consider a 6.5% real GDP growth to be realistic.

There may not be much change in the global economy even though Donald Trump's assumption of office may create more uncertainty. India will have to largely depend on domestic demand.

In particular, the Government of India has to ensure that there is no relaxation in its investment expenditure. In fact, the slightly lower



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Over the next five years, the best that India may hope for is a steady real GDP growth rate of 6.5%

growth in 2024-25 is largely linked to the slowdown in the Government of India's investment growth which has remained negative at (-)12.3% even after eight months into the fiscal year.

With a lower nominal GDP growth in 2024-25 of 9.7% as compared to the budgeted nominal GDP growth of 10.5%, the budgeted Gross Tax Revenue (GTR) of ₹38.4 lakh crore may not be realised if the budgeted buoyancy of 1.03 is maintained. As per Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, GTR growth for the first eight months was 10.7%. If this growth is maintained for the remaining months also, the realised buoyancy would be about 1.1, which is higher than the budgeted buoyancy. In such a case, tax revenue shortfall will be minimal. In other words, any revenue constraint or likely pressure on fiscal deficit would not constrain the government's ability to achieve its capital expenditure target of ₹11.1 lakh crore.

Reason for the dip

However, after the first eight months, the level of the Government of India's capital expenditure has remained limited to ₹5.14 lakh crore, that is 46.2% of the Budget target. In the remaining four months, the Government of India's capital expenditure may be accelerated. It may still fall well short of the target. This has been the main reason for the dip in overall real GDP growth in 2024-25.

Going forward in 2025-26, the Government of India will have to continue to rely on an accelerated capital expenditure growth which can be kept at least at 20% on the revised estimates for 2024-25. Sustained government capital expenditures can have a favourable effect on private investment. The size and the pattern of investment expenditure of the government

should be designed to accelerate private investment as well.

Medium- to long-term growth prospects

Over a period of next five years, the best that India may hope for is a steady real GDP growth rate of 6.5%. This is in line with the International Monetary Fund's real GDP growth projection for the Indian economy, as in its October 2024 release, which is at 6.5% over the period 2025-26 to 2029-30. This real GDP growth may be accompanied by an implicit price deflator (IPD)-based inflation of about 4% which can give a nominal GDP growth in the range of 10.5%-11%. In years in which global conditions improve and the contribution of net exports to GDP growth becomes significant, real GDP growth may touch even 7%. If a real growth of around 6.5% and a nominal growth in the range of 10.5%-11% are maintained over the long run with an average exchange rate depreciation of 2.5% per annum, India should be able to reach a per capita GDP level consistent with a developed country status in the next two and half decades. But the task is not going to be easy. It will be hard to grow at 6.5% as the base keeps on increasing. In fact, in the earlier years, the growth rate will have to be higher. But, at present, the potential rate of growth appears to be 6.5%. However, it can change.

In the light of a potential growth rate of 6.5%, the achievement of 6.4% in 2024-25 should not be considered as disappointing. In fact, the achievement of 8.2% in 2023-24 should be considered as a flash in the pan. The current year's growth rate of 6.4% as in the first advance estimates should be seen in the context of India's potential growth rate.

The views expressed are personal

India's Real Growth Rate and the Forecast भारत की वास्तविक विकास दर और पूर्वानुमान

- The First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Accounts for 2024-25 show a real GDP growth of 6.4% and a nominal GDP growth of 9.7%.



2024-25 के लिए राष्ट्रीय खातों के प्रथम अग्रिम अनुमान (FAE) के अनुसार वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि 6.4% और सांकेतिक GDP वृद्धि 9.7% दर्ज की गई है।

- These numbers are below the Reserve Bank of India's revised growth estimate of 6.6% for real GDP and 10.5% for nominal GDP, as stated in the December 2024 monetary policy statement and the 2024-25 Union Budget (July 2024).
ये आंकड़े भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के संशोधित अनुमान से कम हैं, जिसमें वास्तविक GDP के लिए 6.6% और सांकेतिक GDP के लिए 10.5% की वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया गया था, जो दिसंबर 2024 मौद्रिक नीति वक्तव्य और 2024-25 के केंद्रीय बजट (जुलाई 2024) में प्रस्तुत किया गया था।
- The annual growth of 6.4% is split into 6% growth in the first half and 6.7% growth in the second half, showing improvement over the Q2 growth of 5.4%.
6.4% वार्षिक वृद्धि को पहले छमाही में 6% और दूसरे छमाही में 6.7% में विभाजित किया गया है, जो दूसरी तिमाही (Q2) की 5.4% वृद्धि से बेहतर है।
- The sharp fall in annual GDP growth from 8.2% in 2023-24 to 6.4% in 2024-25 is more visible in GDP figures, while the GVA decline is smaller (from 7.2% to 6.4%).
2023-24 में 8.2% से 2024-25 में 6.4% की वार्षिक GDP वृद्धि में तेज गिरावट अधिक स्पष्ट है, जबकि GVA में कमी (7.2% से 6.4%) अपेक्षाकृत कम है।
- The manufacturing sector growth fell sharply from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% in 2024-25.
निर्माण क्षेत्र की वृद्धि 2023-24 में 9.9% से घटकर 2024-25 में 5.3% हो गई।

Growth Prospects for 2025-26

2025-26 के लिए विकास संभावनाएं

- The Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) rate has stabilized between 33.3% and 33.5% during 2021-22 to 2024-25 and is expected to remain at 33.4% in 2025-26.
स्थिर पूंजी निर्माण दर (GFCF) 2021-22 से 2024-25 के दौरान 33.3% और 33.5% के बीच स्थिर रही है और 2025-26 में 33.4% रहने की उम्मीद है।
- Assuming an Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) of 5.1, a 6.5% real GDP growth for 2025-26 seems realistic.
5.1 की ICOR मानते हुए, 2025-26 के लिए 6.5% की वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि को यथार्थवादी माना जा सकता है।
- The global economy is expected to remain stable, although Donald Trump's assumption of office could create uncertainty. India will primarily depend on domestic demand.
वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था स्थिर रहने की संभावना है, हालांकि डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के पदभार ग्रहण करने से अनिश्चितता पैदा हो सकती है। भारत मुख्यतः घरेलू मांग पर निर्भर करेगा।
- The Government of India's investment growth has remained negative at (-)12.3% even after eight months into the fiscal year.



वित्तीय वर्ष के आठ महीने पूरे होने के बावजूद, भारत सरकार की निवेश वृद्धि (-)12.3% नकारात्मक रही है।

- A nominal GDP growth of 9.7% in 2024-25, lower than the budgeted 10.5%, may impact the Gross Tax Revenue (GTR) target of ₹38.4 lakh crore.

2024-25 में 9.7% की सांकेतिक GDP वृद्धि, जो बजट अनुमानित 10.5% से कम है, ₹38.4 लाख करोड़ के सकल कर राजस्व (GTR) लक्ष्य को प्रभावित कर सकती है।

- The Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data shows a 10.7% growth in GTR for the first eight months, which, if maintained, could result in a buoyancy of 1.1, minimizing revenue shortfall.

महालेखा नियंत्रक (CGA) के आंकड़े पहले आठ महीनों में GTR में 10.7% वृद्धि दिखाते हैं, जो अगर बनी रहती है, तो 1.1 की कर-बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है, जिससे राजस्व की कमी कम होगी।

- The government's capital expenditure target of ₹11.1 lakh crore is unlikely to be constrained by fiscal deficit pressures.

सरकार के ₹11.1 लाख करोड़ के पूंजीगत व्यय लक्ष्य पर वित्तीय घाटे का दबाव होने की संभावना नहीं है।

Reason for the Dip

गिरावट का कारण

- After the first eight months, Government of India's capital expenditure remained limited to ₹5.14 lakh crore, which is 46.2% of the Budget target.

पहले आठ महीनों के बाद, भारत सरकार का पूंजीगत व्यय ₹5.14 लाख करोड़ तक सीमित रहा, जो कि बजट लक्ष्य का 46.2% है।

- In the remaining four months, capital expenditure may accelerate but could still fall short of the target, being the main reason for the dip in 2024-25 real GDP growth.

शेष चार महीनों में, पूंजीगत व्यय तेज हो सकता है, लेकिन लक्ष्य से कम रह सकता है, जो 2024-25 की वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि में गिरावट का मुख्य कारण है।

- For 2025-26, the Government of India needs to ensure accelerated capital expenditure growth of at least 20% on the revised estimates for 2024-25.

2025-26 के लिए, भारत सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि पूंजीगत व्यय वृद्धि कम से कम 2024-25 के संशोधित अनुमान पर 20% हो।

- Sustained government capital expenditures can positively impact private investment, with a focus on accelerating private investments through size and pattern of government investment expenditure.

सतत सरकारी पूंजीगत व्यय का निजी निवेश पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है, और सरकार के निवेश व्यय के आकार और पैटर्न के माध्यम से निजी निवेश को तेज करने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

Medium- to Long-Term Growth Prospects

मध्यम से दीर्घकालिक वृद्धि संभावनाएं



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- Over the next five years, **India's steady real GDP growth rate** is expected to be around **6.5%**, aligning with **IMF projections** from **October 2024**.
अगले पांच वर्षों में, **भारत की स्थिर वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि दर** लगभग **6.5%** रहने की संभावना है, जो **अक्टूबर 2024** में **IMF के अनुमानों** के अनुरूप है।
- Real GDP growth of 6.5% may be accompanied by **IPD-based inflation** of 4%, resulting in nominal GDP growth of **10.5%-11%**.
6.5% की वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि के साथ **IPD आधारित मुद्रास्फीति 4%** हो सकती है, जिससे **10.5%-11% की नाममात्र GDP वृद्धि** होगी।
- In favorable global conditions, **real GDP growth** could reach **7%**, contributing significantly to GDP through **net exports**.
अनुकूल वैश्विक परिस्थितियों में, **वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि 7%** तक पहुंच सकती है, और **शुद्ध निर्यात** के माध्यम से GDP में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान हो सकता है।
- Maintaining **6.5% real growth** and **10.5%-11% nominal growth** with **2.5% annual exchange rate depreciation** may help India achieve **developed country status** in 25 years.
6.5% की वास्तविक वृद्धि और 10.5%-11% की नाममात्र वृद्धि को **2.5% वार्षिक विनिमय दर में कमी** के साथ बनाए रखने से भारत को 25 वर्षों में **विकसित देश का दर्जा** प्राप्त करने में मदद मिल सकती है।
- Higher growth rates in initial years are crucial as **potential growth rate** appears to be **6.5%** currently.
प्रारंभिक वर्षों में उच्च वृद्धि दर महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि वर्तमान में **संभावित वृद्धि दर 6.5%** प्रतीत होती है।
- The achievement of **6.4% growth** in **2024-25** should not be seen as disappointing, given the potential rate of **6.5%**, while **8.2% in 2023-24** was more of an anomaly.
2024-25 में 6.4% वृद्धि को निराशाजनक नहीं माना जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि संभावित दर **6.5%** है, जबकि **2023-24 में 8.2%** अधिक असामान्य थी।
- The current year's growth rate of **6.4%** should be viewed in the context of India's **potential growth rate**.
वर्तमान वर्ष की **6.4% की वृद्धि दर** को भारत की **संभावित वृद्धि दर** के संदर्भ में देखा जाना चाहिए।

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The multiple layers of the Gaza ceasefire

GS Paper II: West Asia

Just days before the swearing-in of United States President-elect Donald Trump, and a few hours before outgoing President Joe Biden gave his final address to the American people on January 15, 2025, Israel and Hamas announced that the long-elusive ceasefire agreement over Gaza had been struck. The state of Qatar, long stuck in between as a mediator, said the deal was to take effect from January 19, 2025, a day before Mr. Trump takes charge. An exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners is at the centre of this arrangement.

The deck and the cards

The news of the agreement saw Palestinians in Gaza take to the streets in celebration, having faced death and destruction at the hands of the Israeli military whose response to the October 7, 2023 terror attack went on for over 15 months even as political deadlocks continued. In a statement, Hamas has highlighted that the movement “dealt with all responsibility and positivity, based on its responsibility towards our patient and steadfast people in the honorable Gaza strip, by stopping the Zionist aggression against them and putting an end to the massacres and war of genocide to which they are being subjected”.

In Washington DC, Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden reportedly worked in unison to deliver the deal even as both tried to lap up the credit. For Mr. Trump, who previously demanded that such a deal be reached before his presidency, this was a marketable advertising of renewed American strength as promised in his election campaign. For Mr. Biden, it is an attempt to salvage legacy.

The joker in this geopolitical deck is Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Amidst misplaced perceptions that Mr. Trump would allow Mr. Netanyahu a longer leash to continue his military operations in Gaza unabated, opinion prevailed that anyone but Mr. Biden would be good for both stemming the ongoing conflicts and



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Despite the complexities, the international community must play its role by pushing for the sustainability of this deal

reigning in Israel's military posturing. It is in all likelihood not a coincidence that the Israeli leadership agreed to the deal – which, in parallel with Hamas, it has scuttled many times – to send a message of partnership and resolve to Mr. Trump.

Why Mr. Netanyahu would go out of the way to court Mr. Trump, even after the Israeli leader was invited by the Republicans to address a joint session of Congress in July 2024, is a question that has a simple answer. Mr. Trump prioritises personality over policy. Agreeing to this deal with Hamas is offering Mr. Trump a victory at potentially big domestic costs for Mr. Netanyahu. For long, Mr. Netanyahu has maintained that only a complete victory over Hamas is acceptable. With this deal, he becomes an Israeli Prime Minister who has cut a political settlement with the arch foe, but without a complete elimination of Hamas.

On Hamas and Israel

There is no doubt that Hamas and also Hezbollah in Lebanon have had their capacities diminished over the past year after leadership decapitation operations conducted by Israel.

Simultaneously, outgoing U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has also said that assessments show that Hamas has recruited as many new militants as it has lost. The lack of a political track acting as insurance for the ceasefire remains a concern. Hamas is expected to continue to be in control of Gaza in the time to come as barely any movements have taken place to reorganise Palestinian politics in a way where the group can be brought under a wider and more mainstream Palestinian-led political ecosystem.

Hamas, by itself, will remain steadfast in its ideology against Israeli security and sovereignty, while Hamas and Israel continue to remain on the same page against a two-state solution, despite a global push for this being the only viable option

available for lasting peace.

The prevailing situation of this status quo, despite the ceasefire, can be leveraged by Mr. Netanyahu in case Hamas resumes attacks against Israeli territories and populations. In such a situation, Mr. Netanyahu will be able to approach Mr. Trump from a vantage point, having agreed to the Hamas deal. A return to retaliatory tactics at this juncture will in all likelihood come with the full support of Mr. Trump, manoeuvring the Israeli position back to one of strength – like one it enjoyed under Mr. Biden. Previously, Mr. Trump has publicly stated that there would be ‘hell to pay’ for Hamas if Israeli hostages, which includes American citizens, are not released.

Gaza and its rebuilding

Beyond the political intricacies of this ceasefire arrangement, the most important deliverable would be that of critical aid to the people in Gaza as food and medical shortages surpassed criticality a long time ago. Beyond the aid front, the rebuilding of Gaza may yet be a premature discussion until alternative political mechanisms are envisioned within the Palestinian fold. This is where the Arab powers have an opportunity to exert influence, and seek a remoulding, a re-shaping, and a revitalisation of the Palestinian Authority to better equip Palestinian politics as a core stakeholder for a challenging future, where the much sought-after two-state solution remains a distant reality.

Finally, the international community must also play its role to push for the sustainability of this deal. The future of West Asian prosperity, newer geo-economic architectures such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a potential expansion of the Abraham Accords, and even the radicalism of a Saudi Arabia-Israel normalisation, ultimately hinges on this momentum. At the end of the day, the management of regional geopolitical fissures by regional powers will determine all outcomes.

The Multiple Layers of the Gaza Ceasefire

गाजा युद्धविराम के विभिन्न पहलू

- Just days before the swearing-in of United States President-elect Donald Trump, and a few hours before outgoing President Joe Biden's final address on January 15, 2025, Israel and Hamas announced a long-elusive ceasefire agreement over Gaza. संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के निर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के शपथ ग्रहण से कुछ दिन पहले और जो बाइडन के अंतिम संबोधन के कुछ घंटे पहले, 15 जनवरी 2025 को, इज़राइल और हमास ने गाजा के लिए लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित युद्धविराम समझौते की घोषणा की।
- The state of Qatar, acting as a mediator, announced that the deal would take effect from January 19, 2025, just a day before Mr. Trump assumes office.



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कतर राज्य, जो मध्यस्थ की भूमिका निभा रहा था, ने घोषणा की कि यह समझौता 19 जनवरी 2025 से प्रभावी होगा, जो कि ट्रंप के पदभार ग्रहण करने से एक दिन पहले है।

- An exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners lies at the center of this arrangement.

इस व्यवस्था के केंद्र में इजरायली बंधकों और फिलिस्तीनी कैदियों का आदान-प्रदान है।

The Deck and the Cards

ताश का खेल और पत्ते

- The announcement saw **Palestinians in Gaza celebrating**, having faced extensive **death and destruction** during **15 months** of Israeli military operations following the **October 7, 2023 terror attack**.

इस घोषणा के बाद गाजा के फिलिस्तीनियों ने जश्न मनाया, क्योंकि उन्होंने 7 अक्टूबर 2023 के आतंकी हमले के बाद 15 महीनों तक इजरायली सैन्य अभियान के दौरान भारी मौत और तबाही का सामना किया।

- In a statement, **Hamas** highlighted that it acted with **responsibility and positivity** to end the **Zionist aggression** and **massacres** against the people of Gaza.

हमास ने एक बयान में कहा कि उसने गाजा के लोगों पर हो रहे जायोनिस्ट हमलों और नरसंहारों को समाप्त करने के लिए जिम्मेदारी और सकारात्मकता के साथ कार्य किया।

- In **Washington DC**, both **Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden** reportedly collaborated on the deal, with both trying to claim credit.

वॉशिंगटन डीसी में, ट्रंप और बाइडन ने इस समझौते पर सहयोग किया, और दोनों ने श्रेय लेने की कोशिश की।

- For **Mr. Trump**, this deal symbolizes a **renewed American strength**, aligning with his **election campaign promises**.

ट्रंप के लिए यह समझौता अमेरिकी शक्ति के पुनरुत्थान का प्रतीक है, जो उनके चुनावी वादों के अनुरूप है।

- For **Mr. Biden**, this is an attempt to **salvage his legacy** before leaving office.

बाइडन के लिए यह उनके पद छोड़ने से पहले अपनी विरासत बचाने का एक प्रयास है।

The Role of Netanyahu

नेतन्याहू की भूमिका

- **Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**, previously thought to prefer continued military operations in Gaza, agreed to the deal to project **partnership and resolve** towards the incoming **Trump administration**.

इजरायल के प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू, जिनके बारे में पहले यह माना जाता था कि वे गाजा में सैन्य अभियान जारी रखना पसंद करेंगे, ने यह समझौता ट्रंप प्रशासन के प्रति साझेदारी और दृढ़ता दिखाने के लिए स्वीकार किया।

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- Despite past instances of scuttling ceasefire deals, **Netanyahu's government** agreed to this arrangement, likely to improve relations with **Mr. Trump**.
अतीत में युद्धविराम समझौतों को विफल करने के बावजूद, **नेतन्याहू की सरकार** ने इस व्यवस्था को स्वीकार कर लिया, शायद **ट्रंप** के साथ संबंध सुधारने के लिए।
- By agreeing to the deal, **Netanyahu** risks domestic criticism for making a **political settlement with Hamas**, despite his stance of achieving a **complete victory** over the group.
इस समझौते को स्वीकार करके, **नेतन्याहू हमास** के साथ **राजनीतिक समझौता** करने के लिए घरेलू आलोचना का जोखिम उठा रहे हैं, जबकि उनकी स्थिति **समूह पर पूर्ण विजय** प्राप्त करने की थी।

On Hamas and Israel

हमास और इज़राइल पर

- There is no doubt that **Hamas** and also **Hezbollah in Lebanon** have had their capacities diminished over the past year after leadership decapitation operations conducted by **Israel**.
यह स्पष्ट है कि **हमास** और **लेबनान में हिज़बुल्ला** की क्षमताएं पिछले वर्ष में **इज़राइल द्वारा नेतृत्व समाप्ति अभियानों** के बाद कम हुई हैं।
- Simultaneously, outgoing **U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken** has also said that assessments show that **Hamas** has recruited as many new militants as it has lost.
साथ ही, निवर्तमान **अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री एंटनी ब्लिंकन** ने भी कहा है कि आकलन से पता चलता है कि **हमास** ने जितने नए लड़ाके भर्ती किए हैं, उतने ही उसने गंवाए हैं।
- The lack of a **political track** acting as insurance for the **ceasefire** remains a concern.
संघर्षविराम के लिए बीमा के रूप में कार्य करने वाले **राजनीतिक मार्ग** की कमी चिंता का विषय बनी हुई है।
- Hamas is expected to continue to be in control of **Gaza** in the time to come as barely any movements have taken place to reorganise **Palestinian politics** in a way where the group can be brought under a wider and more mainstream **Palestinian-led political ecosystem**.
हमास के भविष्य में **गाजा** पर नियंत्रण बनाए रखने की उम्मीद है क्योंकि **फिलिस्तीनी राजनीति** को फिर से संगठित करने के लिए मुश्किल से कोई कदम उठाए गए हैं, जिससे समूह को एक व्यापक और मुख्यधारा के **फिलिस्तीनी नेतृत्व वाले राजनीतिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** में लाया जा सके।
- Hamas, by itself, will remain steadfast in its ideology against **Israeli security and sovereignty**, while **Hamas and Israel** continue to remain on the same page against a **two-state solution**, despite a global push for this being the only viable option available for lasting peace.
हमास, अकेले, **इज़राइली सुरक्षा और संप्रभुता** के खिलाफ अपने विचारधारा में अडिग रहेगा, जबकि **हमास और इज़राइल दो-राज्य समाधान** के खिलाफ एक ही पृष्ठ पर बने हुए हैं, भले ही इसे स्थायी शांति के लिए एकमात्र व्यावहारिक विकल्प के रूप में वैश्विक समर्थन प्राप्त हो।



- The prevailing situation of this **status quo**, despite the **ceasefire**, can be leveraged by **Mr. Netanyahu** in case **Hamas** resumes attacks against Israeli territories and populations.
संघर्षविराम के बावजूद **यथास्थिति** की यह वर्तमान स्थिति, **श्री नेतन्याहू** द्वारा **हमास** द्वारा इजरायली क्षेत्रों और जनसंख्या पर हमले फिर से शुरू करने की स्थिति में लाभ उठाई जा सकती है।
- In such a situation, **Mr. Netanyahu** will be able to approach **Mr. Trump** from a vantage point, having agreed to the **Hamas deal**.
ऐसी स्थिति में, **श्री नेतन्याहू**, **हमास समझौते** पर सहमति व्यक्त करते हुए, **श्री ट्रम्प** के पास एक मजबूत स्थिति से पहुंच पाएंगे।
- A return to retaliatory tactics at this juncture will in all likelihood come with the full support of **Mr. Trump**, manoeuvring the Israeli position back to one of strength — like one it enjoyed under **Mr. Biden**.
इस समय प्रतिशोधात्मक रणनीति में वापसी **श्री ट्रम्प** के पूर्ण समर्थन के साथ होने की संभावना है, जिससे इजरायल की स्थिति **श्री बिडेन** के तहत प्राप्त मजबूत स्थिति में वापस आ जाएगी।
- Previously, **Mr. Trump** has publicly stated that there would be 'hell to pay' for **Hamas** if **Israeli hostages**, which includes **American citizens**, are not released.
पहले, **श्री ट्रम्प** ने सार्वजनिक रूप से कहा था कि यदि **हमास** द्वारा **इजरायली बंधकों**, जिसमें **अमेरिकी नागरिक** भी शामिल हैं, को रिहा नहीं किया गया, तो गंभीर परिणाम भुगतने होंगे।

Gaza and its rebuilding

गाजा और उसका पुनर्निर्माण

- Beyond the political intricacies of this **ceasefire arrangement**, the most important deliverable would be that of critical aid to the people in **Gaza**, as food and medical shortages surpassed criticality a long time ago.
इस **संघर्षविराम व्यवस्था** की राजनीतिक जटिलताओं से परे, सबसे महत्वपूर्ण काम **गाजा** के लोगों के लिए आवश्यक सहायता होगी, क्योंकि खाद्य और चिकित्सा की कमी बहुत पहले ही गंभीर स्तर तक पहुंच चुकी है।
- Beyond the aid front, the rebuilding of **Gaza** may yet be a premature discussion until alternative political mechanisms are envisioned within the **Palestinian fold**.
सहायता से परे, **गाजा** का पुनर्निर्माण तब तक एक समयपूर्व चर्चा हो सकता है जब तक कि **फिलिस्तीनी संगठन** के भीतर वैकल्पिक राजनीतिक तंत्र की परिकल्पना नहीं की जाती।
- This is where the **Arab powers** have an opportunity to exert influence, and seek a remoulding, a reshaping, and a revitalisation of the **Palestinian Authority** to better equip **Palestinian politics** as a core stakeholder for a challenging future.
यही वह जगह है जहां **अरब शक्तियों** के पास प्रभाव डालने और **फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण** के पुनर्गठन, पुनर्निर्माण और पुनर्जीवित करने का अवसर है, ताकि **फिलिस्तीनी राजनीति** को एक चुनौतीपूर्ण भविष्य के लिए एक प्रमुख हितधारक के रूप में बेहतर तरीके से तैयार किया जा सके।
- The international community must also play its role to push for the sustainability of this deal.



अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय को भी इस समझौते की स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अपनी भूमिका निभानी चाहिए।

- The future of **West Asian prosperity**, newer geo-economic architectures such as the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**, a potential expansion of the **Abraham Accords**, and even the radicalism of a **Saudi Arabia-Israel normalisation**, ultimately hinges on this momentum.

पश्चिम एशियाई समृद्धि, जैसे भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप आर्थिक गलियारा, अब्राहम समझौते के संभावित विस्तार, और यहां तक कि सऊदी अरब-इजरायल सामान्यीकरण के उग्रवाद का भविष्य, अंततः इस गति पर निर्भर करता है।

- At the end of the day, the management of **regional geopolitical fissures** by **regional powers** will determine all outcomes.

अंत में, क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों द्वारा क्षेत्रीय भू-राजनीतिक दरारों का प्रबंधन सभी परिणामों को निर्धारित करेगा।

Abraham Accords

- The **Abraham Accords** refer to agreements that normalized relations between Israel and several Arab nations, brokered by the United States.
- These agreements mark a significant shift in **Middle Eastern** geopolitics by fostering peace and cooperation among historical adversaries.
- The accords are seen as a step toward stability and economic collaboration in the region.
- अब्राहम समझौते उन समझौतों को संदर्भित करते हैं, जिन्होंने इजरायल और कई अरब देशों के बीच संबंधों को सामान्य बनाया।
- यह समझौते अमेरिका की मध्यस्थता में हुए और मध्य पूर्व की भू-राजनीति में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव का प्रतीक हैं।
- यह क्षेत्र में शांति और आर्थिक सहयोग की दिशा में एक कदम माना जाता है।

Signatory Nations:

- **Israel, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan** have signed the accords.
- The UAE and Bahrain were the first to sign in **2020** in Washington D.C., followed by Sudan and Morocco in late 2020.
- **इजरायल, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE), बहरीन, मोरक्को, और सूडान** ने समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।



- UAE और बहरीन ने **15 सितंबर 2020** को वाशिंगटन डी.सी. में समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, इसके बाद 2020 के अंत में सूडान और मोरक्को ने हस्ताक्षर किए।

- **Historical Background:**

ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि:

- Prior to the accords, **Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994)** were the only Arab nations to have peace treaties with Israel.
- समझौतों से पहले, **मिस्र (1979)** और **जॉर्डन (1994)** ही ऐसे अरब देश थे जिन्होंने इजरायल के साथ शांति समझौते किए थे।
- The **Abraham Accords** symbolize a growing shift in Arab-Israeli relations, primarily driven by shared concerns about Iran and economic benefits.
- अब्राहम समझौते अरब-इजरायल संबंधों में बदलाव को दर्शाते हैं, जो मुख्य रूप से ईरान को लेकर चिंताओं और आर्थिक लाभों से प्रेरित हैं।



The Hindu
Understanding rat-hole mining - Th...



Enviroics Trust
An Introduction to Rat-hole Mining ...



Centre for Science and Environment
CSE workshops on illegal mining...



The Atlantic
Rat Hole Coal Mining: A Controversy ...



The Hindu
A tragedy that was long in the making ...



Down To Earth
The unregulated, lethal and corrupt ...



Swarajya
Explained: What Is Rat-Hole Mining ...



Live Law
Rat-Hole Coal Mining: Meghalaya High ...



Govt. plans to make India hub for mobility sector: PM

The Centre is prioritising electric mobility and reducing the country's import bills on fossil fuels, says Modi; he highlights green hydrogen mission and initiatives taken to promote solar power

GS Paper III

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made a strong pitch for the automobile industry to “make in India, make for the world” emphasising that the future belonged to “Asia and India” at the inauguration of the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025.

The Prime Minister outlined several investments made by the government to position India as an attractive destination for the mobility sector. These included the ₹11 lakh crore allocation for infrastructure spending in last year's Budget announcement, the PM Gati Shakti programme for multi-modal connectivity, and the National Logistics Policy, which he said would make India the most competitive in logistics costs globally.

The PM also listed initiatives aimed at advancing electric mobility and reducing the country's import bills on fossil fuels. This includes a focus on developing technologies for electric vehicles (EVs), hydrogen fuel, and bio-fuels through initiatives like the National Electric Mobility Mission and Green Hydrogen Mission. Additionally, there was an impetus for solar power with the government intro-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

ducing ₹18,000 crore worth of production-linked incentives for advanced chemistry cell battery storage.

Expo highlights

The first day of the five-day expo saw Maruti Suzuki launch its first-ever battery electric vehicle – the E Vitara, which will go into production at the automaker's plant in Gujarat in a few months. This electric model will also be exported to over 100 countries, including Japan and Europe, establishing India as a global hub for EV manufacturing. The production of the SUV is set to begin soon, with sales expected to open before the end of 2025. The car boasts a range of 500 km for the 61 kWh battery variant on a single charge.

The automaker will also support its customers with smart home chargers and a network of fast-charging stations in the top 100 cities, ensuring charging points are available “every 5 to 10 km”, along with 1,500 EV-enabled service workshops covering 1,000 cities, according to Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and CEO of the company.

“Maruti plans to be the largest EV manufacturer in the country by the end of 2025,” Partho Banerjee, head of marketing and sales, told presspersons. He said that the company would initially have the capacity to manufacture one lakh units annually.

Hyundai also announced the launch of its first mass-market electric

vehicle, the Hyundai Creta Electric, which it describes as its first indigenous EV SUV in India, starting at a price of ₹17.99 lakh. It comes with two battery pack options: 51.4 kWh and 42 kWh, offering driving ranges of 473 km and 390 km, respectively.

While Tata Motors did not unveil a new EV in the passenger car segment, it showcased several new products in the commercial vehicle segment. These include the Prima H.28, which is an indigenously developed H2 ICE truck with a range of 550 km, developed as part of the government's hydrogen pilot programme. The Ultra E9 is a new truck from the company and the Intercity EV 2.0 a bus for long distance travel.



Govt. plans to make India hub for mobility sector: PM

सरकार की योजना भारत को मोबिलिटी क्षेत्र का केंद्र बनाने की: पीएम

- The **Centre is prioritising electric mobility** and aims to reduce the country's **import bills on fossil fuels**, says PM Modi.
केंद्र सरकार इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी को प्राथमिकता दे रही है और देश के जीवाश्म ईंधन के आयात बिल को कम करने का लक्ष्य रखती है, पीएम मोदी ने कहा।
- PM Modi highlighted the **Green Hydrogen Mission** and various initiatives taken to promote **solar power**.
पीएम मोदी ने ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन मिशन और सौर ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों को रेखांकित किया।
- PM Modi emphasized the **"Make in India, Make for the World"** initiative, stating that the future belonged to **Asia and India** during the inauguration of the **Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025**.
पीएम मोदी ने "मेक इन इंडिया, मेक फॉर द वर्ल्ड" पहल पर जोर देते हुए कहा कि भविष्य एशिया और भारत का है, यह बात उन्होंने भारत मोबिलिटी ग्लोबल एक्सपो 2025 के उद्घाटन में कही।
- The government has invested significantly to make India an attractive destination for the **mobility sector**, including a **₹11 lakh crore allocation for infrastructure spending** in the last Budget.
सरकार ने ₹11 लाख करोड़ के बुनियादी ढांचा खर्च सहित, मोबिलिटी क्षेत्र के लिए भारत को आकर्षक गंतव्य बनाने में बड़ा निवेश किया है।
- Initiatives like **PM Gati Shakti programme** for multi-modal connectivity and the **National Logistics Policy** aim to make India globally competitive in logistics costs.
पीएम गतिशक्ति कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से मल्टी-मोडल कनेक्टिविटी और राष्ट्रीय लॉजिस्टिक्स नीति भारत को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं।

Expo Highlights

एक्सपो की मुख्य बातें

- On the first day of the **five-day expo**, **Maruti Suzuki launched its first-ever battery electric vehicle (E Vitara)**, which will go into production in **Gujarat** in a few months.
पांच दिवसीय एक्सपो के पहले दिन, मारुति सुजुकी ने अपनी पहली बैटरी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ई विटारा) लॉन्च की, जिसका उत्पादन कुछ महीनों में गुजरात में शुरू होगा।
- The **E Vitara** will be exported to **over 100 countries**, including **Japan and Europe**, solidifying India as a **global hub for EV manufacturing**.
ई विटारा को जापान और यूरोप सहित 100 से अधिक देशों में निर्यात किया जाएगा, जिससे भारत ईवी निर्माण का वैश्विक केंद्र बनेगा।
- The vehicle boasts a range of **500 km** for the **61 kWh battery variant** on a single charge, with sales expected to open before the end of **2025**.



यह वाहन 61 kWh बैटरी वेरिंट के लिए 500 किमी की रेंज देता है, और इसकी बिक्री 2025 के अंत से पहले शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।

- Hyundai launched its first mass-market EV SUV, the Hyundai Creta Electric, with a starting price of ₹17.99 lakh.

हुंडई ने अपना पहला बड़े बाजार वाला ईवी एसयूवी, हुंडई क्रेटा इलेक्ट्रिक लॉन्च किया, जिसकी शुरुआती कीमत ₹17.99 लाख है।

- The Creta Electric offers two battery options: 51.4 kWh and 42 kWh, providing ranges of 473 km and 390 km, respectively.

क्रेटा इलेक्ट्रिक में दो बैटरी विकल्प हैं: 51.4 kWh और 42 kWh, जो क्रमशः 473 किमी और 390 किमी की रेंज प्रदान करते हैं।

- Tata Motors showcased Prima H.28, an H2 ICE truck with a range of 550 km, developed under the government's hydrogen pilot programme.

टाटा मोटर्स ने प्रिमा एच.28, एक H2 ICE ट्रक प्रदर्शित किया, जिसकी रेंज 550 किमी है और इसे सरकारी हाइड्रोजन पायलट कार्यक्रम के तहत विकसित किया गया है।

- Tata Motors also introduced the Ultra E9 truck and the Intercity EV 2.0 bus for long-distance travel.

टाटा मोटर्स ने अल्ट्रा ई9 ट्रक और लंबी दूरी की यात्रा के लिए इंटरसिटी ईवी 2.0 बस भी पेश की।

Budget Session of Parliament from January 31 to April 4

GS Paper II: Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament will convene on January 31. The first part of the session will conclude on February 13 and the second part of the session after the recess will begin on March 10 and go on till April 4.

The session will begin with President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint session of Parliament. The Budget will be presented on February 1.

The Election Commission has directed the Union government not to have any Delhi-centric announcements in the Budget in view of the Assembly

polls scheduled on February 5. With Bihar polls scheduled later this year, the BJP's allies Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will hope for crucial announcements for the State.

The Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is expected to present its report. The NDA allies are not keen to push it through in Parliament.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee reviewing the simultaneous elections Bill is also scheduled to present its report during the session, though the panel's members have contended that it is too short a time to deliberate on such a significant legislation.

The Budget Session of Parliament will convene on January 31.

संसद का बजट सत्र 31 जनवरी को शुरू होगा।

- The first part of the session will conclude on February 13, and the second part will begin on March 10, continuing till April 4.

सत्र का पहला हिस्सा 13 फरवरी को समाप्त होगा, और दूसरा हिस्सा 10 मार्च से शुरू होकर 4 अप्रैल तक चलेगा।

- The session will begin with President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint session of Parliament.

सत्र की शुरुआत राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू के संसद के संयुक्त सत्र को संबोधित करने से होगी।

- The Budget will be presented on February 1.

बजट 1 फरवरी को पेश किया जाएगा।

- The Election Commission has directed the Union government not to have any Delhi-centric announcements in the Budget due to the Assembly polls scheduled on February 5.

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चुनाव आयोग ने केंद्र सरकार को 5 फरवरी को होने वाले दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव के कारण बजट में कोई दिल्ली-केंद्रित घोषणाएं नहीं करने का निर्देश दिया है।

- With **Bihar polls scheduled later this year**, the BJP's allies **Janata Dal (United)** and **Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)** hope for **crucial announcements** for the state. इस वर्ष के अंत में बिहार चुनाव होने के कारण, भाजपा के सहयोगी जनता दल (यूनाइटेड) और लोक जनशक्ति पार्टी (रामविलास) राज्य के लिए महत्वपूर्ण घोषणाओं की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।
- The **Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, is expected to present its report. **वक्फ (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024** पर संयुक्त समिति के अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने की संभावना है।
- The **NDA allies** are not keen to push the Waqf (Amendment) Bill through Parliament. **एनडीए के सहयोगी वक्फ (संशोधन) विधेयक** को संसद में पारित कराने के इच्छुक नहीं हैं।
- The **Joint Parliamentary Committee** reviewing the **Simultaneous Elections Bill** is also scheduled to present its report during the session. **समानांतर चुनाव विधेयक** की समीक्षा कर रही **संयुक्त संसदीय समिति** भी सत्र के दौरान अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करेगी।
- The panel's members have contended that it is **too short a time to deliberate** on such a **significant legislation**. **समिति के सदस्यों ने तर्क दिया है कि इतने महत्वपूर्ण कानून पर विचार के लिए समय बहुत कम है।**

'Courts must not use abetment of suicide charge mechanically'

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'Courts must not use abetment of suicide charge mechanically'

GS Paper II: Right to Die

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held that the police must not deploy the criminal provision of "abetment of suicide" casually or to assuage the immediate feelings of the distraught family members of the deceased.

A Bench of Justices K.V. Viswanathan and A.S. Oka said Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code or corresponding Section 108 read with Section 45 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 appeared to be "too readily resorted to by the police".

In order to bring a case of abetment of suicide the police must carefully examine whether the accused had played an active role in instigating or facilitating the death of a person. To satisfy the requirement of instigation by the accused by his or her act or omission or by a continued course of conduct should have created such circumstances that the deceased was left with no other option except to end their own lives. "A word uttered in a fit of anger and emotion without intending the consequences to actually follow cannot be said to be

The SC said it was time investigating agencies were sensitised to law under Section 306

instigation," Justice Viswanathan observed.

The court said it was time investigating agencies were sensitised to the law laid down by the Supreme Court under Section 306 so that persons were not subjected to the abuse of process of an untenable prosecution.

"The trial courts must exercise great caution and circumspection and should not adopt a play it safe syndrome by mechanically framing charges," Justice Viswanathan wrote.

The judgment was dealing with an appeal filed by an accused in a case of abetment of suicide of a young man. The accused was an employee of a financial company who had sought the repayment of a loan. The Madhya Pradesh High Court had rejected his plea for discharge, but the decision was set aside by the top court.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on DISHA's suicide prevention helpline at 1056)

considered instigation, Justice Viswanathan observed.

'न्यायालयों को आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाने के आरोप का यांत्रिक रूप से उपयोग नहीं करना चाहिए'

- The Supreme Court on Friday held that the police must not use the criminal provision of "abetment of suicide" casually or to assuage the immediate feelings of the deceased's family members.

शुक्रवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि पुलिस को आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाने के आपराधिक प्रावधान का उपयोग अनौपचारिक रूप से या शोकाकुल परिवार के सदस्यों की भावनाओं को शांत करने के लिए नहीं करना चाहिए।

- A Bench of Justices K.V. Viswanathan and A.S. Oka observed that Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code or Section 108 read with Section 45 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, appeared to be "too readily resorted to by the police."

न्यायमूर्ति के.वी. विश्वनाथन और ए.एस. ओका की पीठ ने देखा कि भारतीय दंड संहिता की धारा 306 (आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाना) या भारतीय न्याय संहिता, 2023 की धारा 108, धारा 45 के साथ पढ़ी गई, का पुलिस द्वारा बहुत आसानी से सहारा लिया जा रहा है।

- To bring a case of abetment of suicide, the police must carefully examine whether the accused actively instigated or facilitated the death.

आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाने का मामला लाने के लिए, पुलिस को सावधानीपूर्वक यह जांचना चाहिए कि आरोपी ने सक्रिय रूप से मौत के लिए उकसाया या सहारा दिया था।

- Instigation by the accused should involve acts or omissions that created circumstances where the deceased was left with no other option except to end their life.

आरोपी द्वारा उकसावे में कृत्य या चूक शामिल होनी चाहिए, जिससे मृतक अपने जीवन को समाप्त करने के अलावा कोई और विकल्प नहीं छोड़ता।

- A word uttered in a fit of anger and emotion, without intending actual consequences, cannot be



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न्यायमूर्ति विश्वनाथन ने कहा कि गुस्से या भावना में कहे गए शब्द, जिनका वास्तविक परिणाम लाने का कोई इरादा नहीं था, उकसावे के रूप में नहीं माने जा सकते।

- The **court emphasized sensitization of investigating agencies** to prevent abuse of **Section 306** and protect individuals from **untenable prosecution**.

न्यायालय ने जांच एजेंसियों को धारा 306 पर संवेदनशील बनाने और असमर्थनीय अभियोजन से व्यक्तियों को बचाने पर जोर दिया।

- **Trial courts must exercise caution and avoid mechanically framing charges**, said Justice Viswanathan.

न्यायमूर्ति विश्वनाथन ने कहा कि निचली अदालतों को सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए और आरोप तय करने में यांत्रिक दृष्टिकोण से बचना चाहिए।

- The judgment was on an appeal by an **accused employee of a financial company** who had sought loan repayment and was charged with abetment of suicide of a **young man**.

यह निर्णय वित्तीय कंपनी के एक आरोपी कर्मचारी की अपील पर था, जिसने ऋण वसूली की मांग की थी और एक युवक की आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाने का आरोप लगाया गया था।

- The **Madhya Pradesh High Court** had rejected his plea for discharge, but the **Supreme Court** set aside the decision.

मध्य प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय ने उनकी आरोप-मुक्ति की याचिका खारिज कर दी थी, लेकिन सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस निर्णय को पलट दिया।

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Research questions 'iron deficiency' as key cause of anaemia in India

GS Paper III: S&T

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

The conventional wisdom that iron deficiency is the primary cause of anaemia in India may be outdated, with a host of other factors, ranging from Vitamin B12 deficiency to air pollution, influencing anaemia, says a study involving researchers from multiple institutions that was published earlier this week. Moreover, the manner in which blood is drawn for testing anaemia under public health programmes can dramatically alter estimates of the condition.

The study has appeared in the peer-reviewed *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

Anaemia is caused due to a lack of enough red blood cells (RBC) or haemoglobin. The common wisdom is that insufficient iron is the culprit and is the



The NFHS relied on drawing capillary blood, or from a pinprick, compared with the venous-blood draw.

driving force behind public policy interventions such as iron supplementation or mixing iron into staple foods (bio-fortification).

The latest official assessment of anaemia in the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), in 2019-2021, suggests that despite decades of policy intervention, anaemia has only gotten worse.

The latest study, funded

by the Department of Biotechnology, measured venous blood haemoglobin concentrations from about 4,500 people in eight States. Overall, 34.9% of those tested were anaemic. However, only 9% of them had what could be medically characterised as iron-deficiency anaemia; 22% of them were characterised as having anaemia from “unknown” causes.

“The major proportion of anaemia in all groups studied, was due to... unknown (and unmeasured) causes of anaemia. This could be due to deficiencies in other erythropoietic (blood-producing) nutrients like B12 or folate, or due to hemoglobinopathies, undetected blood loss, an unhygienic environment [20] or other causes like air pollution,” the authors said in their report.

The team of scientists

and doctors spanned institutions such as St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru; National Institute of Nutrition; Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology; and Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology.

For women aged between 15 and 49, anaemia prevalence was 41.1% in comparison with 60.8% in the NFHS-5. The prevalence of anaemia in adolescent girls (15-19 years) was 44.3% compared with 62.6% in NFHS-5.

The percentage drop in anaemia in this study compared with the NFHS could be explained by the method of blood collection, said Anura Kurpad, professor, St. John's Medical College, and one of the authors of the study.

The NFHS relied on drawing capillary blood, or from a pinprick, compared with the more involved venous-blood draw.

Research Questions 'Iron Deficiency' as Key Cause of Anaemia in India

भारत में एनीमिया के प्रमुख कारण के रूप में 'आयरन की कमी' पर शोध प्रश्न



- The conventional wisdom that iron deficiency is the primary cause of anaemia in India may be outdated, with other factors such as **Vitamin B12 deficiency and air pollution influencing anaemia**, according to a study published in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

भारत में एनीमिया का मुख्य कारण आयरन की कमी होने की पारंपरिक समझ पुरानी हो सकती है। एक अध्ययन के अनुसार, विटामिन बी12 की कमी और वायु प्रदूषण जैसे अन्य कारक एनीमिया को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं। यह अध्ययन यूरोपियन जर्नल ऑफ क्लिनिकल न्यूट्रिशन में प्रकाशित हुआ।

- **Anaemia** is caused due to a lack of enough **red blood cells (RBC)** or **haemoglobin**.
एनीमिया तब होता है जब शरीर में पर्याप्त **लाल रक्त कोशिकाएं (RBC)** या **हीमोग्लोबिन** नहीं होता।
- The common wisdom is that insufficient iron is the main culprit, leading to public policy interventions like **iron supplementation** or **bio-fortification** of staple foods.
आम धारणा यह है कि **आयरन की कमी** मुख्य कारण है, जिससे **आयरन सप्लीमेंटेशन** या मुख्य खाद्य पदार्थों में **बायो-फोर्टिफिकेशन** जैसी नीतियां बनाई जाती हैं।
- The **fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** (2019-2021) shows that despite decades of policy intervention, anaemia has worsened.
राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS) के पांचवें दौर (2019-2021) के अनुसार, नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप के दशकों के बावजूद, एनीमिया और भी खराब हुआ है।
- The recent study, funded by the **Department of Biotechnology**, measured **venous blood haemoglobin concentrations** from about **4,500 people** across **eight states**.
इस अध्ययन को **जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग** द्वारा वित्तपोषित किया गया था और इसमें **8 राज्यों** के लगभग **4,500 लोगों** के **शिरापरक रक्त हीमोग्लोबिन सांद्रता** को मापा गया।
- Overall, **34.9%** of those tested were anaemic, but only **9%** had **iron-deficiency anaemia**, while **22%** had anaemia from **unknown causes**.
कुल मिलाकर, परीक्षण किए गए लोगों में से **34.9%** एनीमिक थे, लेकिन केवल **9%** में **आयरन की कमी से संबंधित एनीमिया** पाया गया, जबकि **22%** में एनीमिया के **अज्ञात कारण** थे।
- The unknown causes may include deficiencies in other **erythropoietic nutrients** like **B12** or **folate**, **hemoglobinopathies**, undetected blood loss, an unhygienic environment, or **air pollution**.
अज्ञात कारणों में अन्य **एरिथ्रोपोएटिक पोषक तत्वों** जैसे **बी12** या **फोलेट** की कमी, **हीमोग्लोबिनोपैथी**, अदृश्य रक्त हानि, अस्वच्छ वातावरण, या **वायु प्रदूषण** शामिल हो सकते हैं।
- The team included researchers from institutions like **St. John's Medical College (Bengaluru)**, **National Institute of Nutrition**, **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology**, and **Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology**.
इस टीम में **सेंट जॉन्स मेडिकल कॉलेज (बेंगलुरु)**, **राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान**, **केंद्रिय कोशिका और आणविक जीव विज्ञान केंद्र**, और **जीनोमिक्स एवं समन्वित जीव विज्ञान संस्थान** के शोधकर्ता शामिल थे।
- For women aged **15-49 years**, anaemia prevalence was **41.1%** compared with **60.8%** in NFHS-5.



15-49 वर्ष की आयु वर्ग की महिलाओं में एनीमिया की प्रचलन दर **41.1%** थी, जबकि NFHS-5 में यह **60.8%** थी।

- Among adolescent girls aged **15-19 years**, anaemia prevalence was **44.3%**, compared with **62.6%** in NFHS-5.

15-19 वर्ष की आयु वर्ग की किशोरियों में एनीमिया की प्रचलन दर **44.3%** थी, जबकि NFHS-5 में यह **62.6%** थी।

- The **percentage drop** in anaemia in this study compared to NFHS-5 could be explained by the **method of blood collection**.

इस अध्ययन में एनीमिया की प्रतिशत कमी को NFHS-5 की तुलना में **रक्त संग्रह विधि** के कारण समझाया जा सकता है।

- NFHS relied on **capillary blood** (pinprick), whereas the study used **venous blood draw**, which provides more accurate results.

NFHS ने **केशिका रक्त** (सुई चुभाकर) पर भरोसा किया, जबकि इस अध्ययन में **शिरापरक रक्त संग्रह** का उपयोग किया गया, जो अधिक सटीक परिणाम देता है।

‘To fix economy, boost consumption’

Reserve Bank of India officials moot monitoring of sticky food inflation and its 'second order effects', pin hopes on rekindling private capex through improved disposable incomes for people amid an 'anything but ordinary' global economy

**GS Paper III:
Economy**

NEW DELHI

One way to revive the animal spirits amid India's tripping economic growth is to boost consumption, senior Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials said on Friday, noting that private capex is yet to show any visible signs of pick-up while government capex has slipped.

While they identified investment and manufacturing as the biggest drags on growth in an assessment of the economy, RBI officials, including the now former Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra, reckoned that the



Feeling the pinch: The middle class is pinning hopes on relief from food inflation and higher disposable incomes, RBI officials said. PTI

time is “apposite to rekindle the animal spirits, create mass consumer demand and trigger a boom in investment”.

“The middle class is pinning hopes on relief from

food inflation and hence higher disposable incomes, especially the urban segment,” they said in the RBI bulletin. While December’s 5.22% inflation print was driven by “win-

ter easing of prices when the earth offers up a rich bounty of fruits and vegetables”, the bulletin article said food inflation “continues to remain high, with key products” seeing high double digits inflation.”

“The stickiness in high food inflation, in an environment of firming rural wages and corporate salary outgoes, warrants careful monitoring of second order effects,” it said.

Weighing in tangentially on the threat posed by quick commerce and e-tailers to mom-and-pop stores, the article said private final consumption is the brightening spot in the

economy, driven by e-commerce and q-commerce among which fostering competition is better than being restrictive.

The global economy is shaping up to be ‘anything but ordinary’ in 2025, and disinflation can be expected to be uneven, limiting monetary policy easing space. While disinflation would bring relief for households with severely stretched finances, they said the inflation battle is “entering a new phase with fresh upside threats on the horizon – the weaponisation of uncertainty – and the future path of interest rates is becoming hazy.”



To fix economy, boost consumption

अर्थव्यवस्था को ठीक करने के लिए, खपत को बढ़ावा दें

RBI officials suggest monitoring sticky food inflation and its second-order effects to revive economic growth.

आरबीआई अधिकारियों ने आर्थिक वृद्धि को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए स्थायी खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति और उसके दूसरे क्रम के प्रभावों की निगरानी का सुझाव दिया।

- **Private capital expenditure (capex) has not shown visible signs of recovery, and government capex has slipped.**
निजी पूंजीगत व्यय (कैपेक्स) में सुधार के कोई स्पष्ट संकेत नहीं दिखे हैं, और सरकारी कैपेक्स में कमी आई है।
- **Investment and manufacturing were identified as major drags on growth.**
निवेश और विनिर्माण को वृद्धि के प्रमुख बाधक के रूप में पहचाना गया।
- **Former Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra stated it is an appropriate time to rekindle consumer demand and boost investment.**
पूर्व डिप्टी गवर्नर माइकल डी. पात्रा ने कहा कि उपभोक्ता मांग को पुनर्जीवित करने और निवेश को बढ़ावा देने का यह उपयुक्त समय है।
- **The middle class relies on relief from food inflation to enhance disposable income, especially in urban areas.**
मध्यम वर्ग खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति से राहत पर निर्भर करता है ताकि उनकी खर्च योग्य आय, विशेष रूप से शहरी क्षेत्रों में, बढ़ सके।
- **December 5.22% inflation saw a dip due to winter's bounty of fruits and vegetables, yet food inflation remains high.**
दिसंबर में 5.22% मुद्रास्फीति में फलों और सब्जियों की शीतकालीन उपलब्धता के कारण कमी आई, लेकिन खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति उच्च बनी हुई है।
- **Key products are experiencing double-digit inflation rates.**
मुख्य उत्पाद दो अंकों की मुद्रास्फीति दर का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- **Rising rural wages and corporate salary outgoes could cause second-order inflationary effects, requiring careful monitoring.**
ग्रामीण मजदूरी और कॉर्पोरेट वेतन में वृद्धि दूसरे क्रम के मुद्रास्फीति प्रभाव पैदा कर सकती है, जिसके लिए सावधानीपूर्वक निगरानी की आवश्यकता है।
- **Private final consumption is a bright spot, driven by e-commerce and q-commerce, fostering competition.**
निजी अंतिम खपत एक उज्ज्वल बिंदु है, जिसे ई-कॉमर्स और क्यू-कॉमर्स द्वारा संचालित किया जा रहा है, जो प्रतिस्पर्धा को प्रोत्साहित करता है।



- **The global economy in 2025 is expected to be 'anything but ordinary,' with uneven disinflation limiting monetary policy easing.**
2025 में वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था 'सामान्य से अलग' रहने की उम्मीद है, असमान मुद्रास्फीति गिरावट मौद्रिक नीति में ढील को सीमित करेगी।
- **Disinflation may relieve households with stretched finances but new inflationary threats loom due to global uncertainty.**
मुद्रास्फीति गिरावट से वित्तीय कठिनाइयों का सामना कर रहे परिवारों को राहत मिल सकती है, लेकिन वैश्विक अनिश्चितताओं के कारण नई मुद्रास्फीति संबंधी चुनौतियां सामने आ रही हैं।
- **Future interest rate trends remain uncertain amidst rising inflationary threats.**
बढ़ती मुद्रास्फीति संबंधी खतरों के बीच भविष्य की ब्याज दरों का रुझान अनिश्चित बना हुआ है।

China's population declines for third consecutive year, straining economy

China's population stood at 1.408 billion at the end of 2024, a decline of 1.39 million from the previous year; The figures follow trends worldwide, but especially in East Asia, where Japan, South Korea and others have seen birth rates plummet

GS Paper I: Society

Associated Press

TAIPEI

China's population fell last year for the third straight year, its government said on Friday, pointing to further demographic challenges for the world's second most populous nation, which is now facing an ageing population and an emerging shortage of working age people.

China's population stood at 1.408 billion at the end of 2024, a decline of 1.39 million from the previous year.

The figures announced by the government in Beijing



Dwindling lot: Rising cost of living has been attributed as one of the main reasons for people to not have children. AFP

ing follow trends worldwide, but especially in East Asia, where Japan, South Korea and other nations have seen their birth rates

plummet. China three years ago joined Japan and most of Eastern Europe among other nations whose population is fall-

ing. The reasons are in many cases similar: rising costs of living are causing young people to put off or rule out marriage and child birth while pursuing higher education and careers. While people are living longer, that's not enough to keep up with rate of new births.

Lopsided sex ratio

Countries such as China that allow very little immigration are especially at risk. China also has a lopsided sex ratio, with as many as millions more boys born for every 100 girls, raising the possibility of social instability among Chi-

na's army of bachelors. Friday's report gave the sex imbalance as 104.34 men to every 100 women, though independent groups give the imbalance as considerably higher.

More disturbing for the government was the drastically falling birthrate, with China's total population dropping for the first time in decades in 2023 and China being narrowly overtaken by India as the world's most populous nation in the same year. A rapidly ageing population, declining workforce, lack of consumer markets and migration abroad are putting the system under severe pressure.

China's Population Declines for Third Consecutive Year, Straining Economy

तीसरे लगातार वर्ष में चीन की जनसंख्या में गिरावट, अर्थव्यवस्था पर दबाव



- China's population stood at 1.408 billion at the end of 2024, a decline of 1.39 million from the previous year.
2024 के अंत में चीन की जनसंख्या 1.408 अरब थी, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में 1.39 मिलियन कम है।
- The figures align with trends worldwide, particularly in **East Asia**, where nations like **Japan** and **South Korea** have seen significant drops in birth rates.
ये आंकड़े वैश्विक प्रवृत्तियों के अनुरूप हैं, विशेष रूप से **पूर्वी एशिया** में, जहां **जापान** और **दक्षिण कोरिया** जैसे देशों में जन्म दर में भारी गिरावट आई है।
- **China's population fell last year for the third straight year**, highlighting demographic challenges such as **an ageing population and a shortage of working-age individuals**.
पिछले साल लगातार तीसरे वर्ष चीन की जनसंख्या में गिरावट हुई, जो एक बुजुर्ग आबादी और कार्यशील आयु वर्ग की कमी जैसे जनसांख्यिकीय चुनौतियों को उजागर करता है।
- **China's population decline started three years ago**, joining nations like **Japan** and **Eastern Europe**, where populations are also falling.
तीन साल पहले चीन की जनसंख्या में गिरावट शुरू हुई, और यह **जापान** और **पूर्वी यूरोप** जैसे देशों की श्रेणी में आ गया, जहां जनसंख्या भी घट रही है।
- **Reasons include rising costs of living, delayed marriages, and lower birth rates as young people prioritize higher education and careers**.
इसकी वजहें हैं **जीवन यापन की बढ़ती लागत**, शादी में देरी, और कम जन्म दर क्योंकि युवा **उच्च शिक्षा** और **करियर** को प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं।
- People are living longer, but the rate of new births is insufficient to sustain population levels.
लोग अधिक समय तक जीवित रह रहे हैं, लेकिन नए जन्मों की दर जनसंख्या को बनाए रखने के लिए अपर्याप्त है।
- Countries with limited immigration policies, like **China**, face greater risks of population imbalance.
सीमित प्रवासन नीति वाले देश, जैसे **चीन**, जनसंख्या असंतुलन के अधिक जोखिम का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- **China's lopsided sex ratio, with 104.34 men for every 100 women**, poses risks of social instability.
चीन का असंतुलित लिंग अनुपात, जिसमें **100 महिलाओं पर 104.34 पुरुष** हैं, सामाजिक अस्थिरता का खतरा पैदा करता है।
- **Independent groups estimate** the sex imbalance to be even higher than the government's figures.
स्वतंत्र समूहों का अनुमान है कि लिंग असंतुलन सरकारी आंकड़ों से भी अधिक है।
- **Falling birth rates** are a critical concern, with China's total population dropping for the first time in **decades in 2023**, and **India overtaking China** as the world's most populous nation in the same year.
गिरती हुई जन्म दर एक गंभीर चिंता का विषय है, क्योंकि **2023 में दशकों बाद पहली बार चीन की कुल**



जनसंख्या कम हुई, और इसी वर्ष भारत चीन को दुनिया के सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या वाले देश के रूप में पीछे छोड़ चुका है।

- Challenges include a **rapidly aging population**, a declining workforce, reduced consumer markets, and **migration abroad**, which are straining the system. चुनौतियों में शामिल हैं तेजी से वृद्ध होती आबादी, घटता हुआ कार्यबल, उपभोक्ता बाजारों में कमी, और विदेशों में प्रवासन, जो सिस्टम पर दबाव डाल रहे हैं।

President gives away the Khel Ratna and other National Sports Awards

राष्ट्रपति ने खेल रत्न और अन्य राष्ट्रीय खेल पुरस्कार प्रदान किए

President gives away the **Khel Ratna** and other National sports awards

PCS



Fantastic four: President Droupadi Murmu conferring the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, from right, on Gukesh, Harmanpreet, Praveen Kumar, and Manu. PTI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Manu Bhaker and D. Gukesh provided a sprinkling of stardust but it were the para-athletes who walked away with the most boisterous applause when President Droupadi Murmu bestowed the National Sports Awards in a regal ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Friday.

Double Olympic-medallist Bhaker, 18-year-old

chess World champion Gukesh, men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Paralympic gold-winning high jumper Praveen Kumar were presented the country's highest sporting honour – the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna.

Thirty two athletes were honoured with the Arjuna Award out of which 17 were para-athletes.

The para-athletes outnumbered the able-bodied ones in the list this time

due to the magnificent Paralympics performance in which they returned with 29 medals, including seven gold. President Murmu repeatedly broke tradition to receive some wheelchair-bound athletes.

Heart-warming

A heart-warming moment of the ceremony was when India's first Paralympic gold-medallist Murlikant Petkar walked up to the President on crutches to

receive the Arjuna Award (lifetime). The President met the 80-year-old war hero half way to present him the award.

Dignitaries, including sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya and sports secretary Sujata Chaturvedi, were among those who attended the ceremony.

While the Khel Ratna comes with a cash prize of ₹25 lakh, the Arjuna and Dronacharya awards have cash prize of ₹15 lakh.

- Manu Bhaker** and **D. Gukesh** added a sprinkling of stardust to the ceremony, but the **para-athletes** received the most applause when **President Droupadi Murmu** bestowed the **National Sports Awards** at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on **Friday**.

मनु भाकर और डी. गुकेश ने कार्यक्रम में चमक जोड़ दी, लेकिन पैरा-एथलीट्स को सबसे अधिक सराहना मिली जब राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने शुक्रवार को राष्ट्रपति भवन में राष्ट्रीय खेल पुरस्कार प्रदान किए।

- Double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker**, **18-year-old chess World champion D. Gukesh**, **men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh**, and **Paralympic gold-winning high jumper Praveen Kumar** were awarded the

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, the highest sporting honor of the country.

डबल ओलंपिक पदक विजेता मनु भाकर, 18 वर्षीय शतरंज विश्व चैंपियन डी. गुकेश, पुरुष हॉकी कप्तान



हरमनप्रीत सिंह, और पैरालंपिक स्वर्ण विजेता हाई जम्पर प्रवीण कुमार को देश का सर्वोच्च खेल सम्मान मेजर ध्यानचंद खेल रत्न प्रदान किया गया।

- **Thirty-two athletes** were honored with the **Arjuna Award**, out of which **17 were para-athletes**.

32 एथलीट्स को अर्जुन पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया, जिनमें से 17 पैरा-एथलीट्स थे।

- The **para-athletes outnumbered the able-bodied ones** due to their **magnificent performance in the Paralympics**, winning **29 medals, including seven golds**.

पैरा-एथलीट्स की संख्या सक्षम एथलीट्स से अधिक थी, क्योंकि उन्होंने पैरालंपिक्स में शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए 29 पदक जीते, जिनमें 7 स्वर्ण पदक शामिल हैं।

- **President Murmu** broke tradition multiple times to greet and present awards to wheelchair-bound athletes.

राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने व्हीलचेयर पर बैठे एथलीट्स को सम्मानित करने के लिए कई बार परंपरा तोड़ी।

- A heartwarming moment occurred when **India's first Paralympic gold medallist Murlikant Petkar** walked up to the President on **crutches** to receive the **Arjuna Award (lifetime)**. The **President met him halfway** to present the award.

एक भावुक क्षण तब आया जब भारत के पहले पैरालंपिक स्वर्ण पदक विजेता मुरलीकांत पेटकर ने बैसाखियों के सहारे अर्जुन पुरस्कार (लाइफटाइम) लेने के लिए राष्ट्रपति के पास पहुंचे। राष्ट्रपति ने उन्हें आधे रास्ते में जाकर पुरस्कार दिया।

- Dignitaries including **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** and **Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi** attended the ceremony.

खेल मंत्री मनसुख मंडाविया और खेल सचिव सुजाता चतुर्वेदी सहित कई गणमान्य व्यक्ति इस समारोह में उपस्थित थे।

- The **Khel Ratna Award** carries a cash prize of **₹25 lakh**, while the **Arjuna Award** and **Dronacharya Award** carry a cash prize of **₹15 lakh**.

खेल रत्न पुरस्कार में ₹25 लाख की नकद राशि दी जाती है, जबकि अर्जुन पुरस्कार और द्रोणाचार्य पुरस्कार में ₹15 लाख की नकद राशि शामिल है।