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Contact Number: 9971932488

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As core sector output slumps, anxieties over growth deepen

GS Paper III: Economy

Worrying trend

The Core sectors' index fell further in Sept. even as the Y-o-Y growth rebounded from a shrinkage in Aug.



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Output levels in **India's eight core sectors, which account for about 40% of the country's industrial production**, continued to drag in September with the **Index of Core Industries (ICI)** falling to a 10-month low of 154.8. That is 0.83% below August levels.

On a year-on-year basis, however, core industries' output recorded a 2% uptick, reflecting a moderate but positive turnaround from August, when the index had contracted 1.6%, the first such shrinkage in 36 months.

Fortunes were mixed for the two key construction-related sectors, with steel output growth hitting a 33-month nadir of 1.5% in September, while cement production rose 7.1%, the fastest in six months.

Noting that steel output may have been dented by the automobile sector's sales woes, Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis reckoned that industrial output in September may remain weak, with a growth rate of under 1%.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had contracted marginally in August. The National Statisti-

cal Office will release September's IIP numbers on November 12.

Acuité Ratings chief economist Suman Chowdhury, who expects core sectors to grow 4.5% to 5% through 2024-25, compared to 7.6% last year, said this will also drag down industrial output growth to 5%. The economic indicators for the second quarter have increased the downside risks to their 7% growth projection for the year, he noted.

Five of the eight infrastructure sectors recorded year-on-year growth, compared to just two sectors in August. However, just three sectors' production levels were also higher than in August: coal (up 9.8%), cement (0.85%), and refinery products, which recorded a fractional 0.07% uptick sequentially. Electricity generation contracted for the second month in a row, albeit with a milder shrinkage of 0.5% from September 2023.

Crude oil production contracted for the fifth successive month, with the shrinkage deepening to 3.9%, while natural gas declined to 1.3%. Absolute output levels in both these sectors were at a three-month low.



Eight Core Sectors of the Indian Economy

- The eight core sectors of India are critical industries that significantly impact the country's industrial performance and economic health.
- Together, they constitute **40.27%** of the total weight of items in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, an index that gauges the production performance of various sectors in the Indian economy.
- **भारत की आठ प्रमुख क्षेत्र:** भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था के आठ प्रमुख क्षेत्र वे महत्वपूर्ण उद्योग हैं जो देश के औद्योगिक प्रदर्शन और आर्थिक स्वास्थ्य पर काफी प्रभाव डालते हैं।
- यह कुल **औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक** का **40.27%** हिस्सा रखते हैं।

Eight Core Sectors

- **Petroleum Refinery Products**
 - **Importance:** Refined petroleum products like diesel and petrol are crucial for transport and industry.
 - **Contribution:** This sector holds the **largest weight of 28.04%** in the IIP.
 - **Recent Data:** India's refinery production increased by **8.9%** in 2023 due to rising demand.
- **पेट्रोलियम रिफाइनरी उत्पाद**
 - **महत्व:** डीजल और पेट्रोल जैसे उत्पाद परिवहन और उद्योगों में महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
 - **योगदान:** इसका IIP में **28.04%** भार है।
 - **हालिया डेटा:** 2023 में भारत का रिफाइनरी उत्पादन **8.9%** बढ़ा।
- **Electricity**
 - **Importance:** Vital for industrial and residential use, electricity powers economic growth.
 - **Contribution:** Electricity has a weight of 19.85% in the IIP.
 - **Recent Developments:** India's renewable energy share is expanding, contributing to sustainable electricity production.
- **बिजली**
 - **महत्व:** औद्योगिक और घरेलू उपयोग के लिए बिजली आवश्यक है।
 - **योगदान:** इसका IIP में **19.85%** भार है।
 - **हालिया विकास:** भारत में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा का हिस्सा बढ़ रहा है।
- **Coal**
 - **Importance:** Coal is essential for electricity production, as India's power sector relies heavily on coal-fired power plants.
 - **Contribution:** This sector has weight of 10.33% in the IIP.
 - **Recent Data:** In FY 2023, coal production grew by **14%** to meet growing energy demands.
- **कोयला**
 - **महत्व:** कोयला बिजली उत्पादन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि भारत का ऊर्जा क्षेत्र कोयले पर निर्भर है।



- योगदान: इसका IIP में **10.33%** भार है।
- हालिया डेटा: FY 2023 में कोयला उत्पादन में **14%** की वृद्धि हुई।
- **Crude Oil**
 - **Importance:** It is a key raw material for refineries and critical for India's energy security.
 - **Contribution:** Crude oil has a weight of 8.98% in the IIP.
 - **Recent Trends:** Production in recent years has faced challenges due to declining reserves.
- **कच्चा तेल**
 - महत्व: यह रिफाइनरियों के लिए कच्चा माल है और भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
 - योगदान: इसका IIP में **8.98%** भार है।
 - हालिया प्रवृत्तियाँ: हाल के वर्षों में उत्पादन में कमी आई है।
- **Natural Gas**
 - **Importance:** Used in electricity generation and as an industrial fuel, especially in fertilizers.
 - **Contribution:** The weight of natural gas is 6.88% in the IIP.
 - **Recent Developments:** The government aims to increase natural gas's share in India's energy mix from **6% to 15%** by 2030.
- **प्राकृतिक गैस**
 - महत्व: बिजली उत्पादन और उर्वरकों में इसका उपयोग होता है।
 - योगदान: इसका IIP में **6.88%** भार है।
 - हालिया विकास: सरकार इसे **2030 तक 15%** तक बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य रखती है।
- **Fertilizers**
 - **Importance:** Fertilizers are critical for agriculture, affecting food security and rural economy.
 - **Contribution:** It has a 2.63% weight in the IIP.
 - **Recent Trends:** There has been a push for **self-reliance in fertilizer production** under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **उर्वरक**
 - महत्व: यह कृषि और खाद्य सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
 - योगदान: इसका IIP में **2.63%** भार है।
 - हालिया प्रवृत्तियाँ: आत्मनिर्भर भारत के तहत इसे स्वदेशी बनाने पर जोर दिया गया है।
- **Steel**
 - **Importance:** Steel is essential for infrastructure, construction, and manufacturing.
 - **Contribution:** This sector has a weight of 17.92% in the IIP.
 - **Recent Data:** India is the **second-largest producer** of steel, with production increasing by 6% in 2023.
- **इस्पात**
 - महत्व: इस्पात अवसंरचना, निर्माण और निर्माण उद्योगों में आवश्यक है।
 - योगदान: इसका IIP में **17.92%** भार है।
 - हालिया डेटा: भारत **दूसरा सबसे बड़ा इस्पात उत्पादक** है।





- **Cement**

- **Importance:** Cement is fundamental to the construction sector, particularly housing and infrastructure.
- **Contribution:** The weight of cement in IIP is 5.37%.
- **Recent Trends:** Production growth aligns with infrastructure projects like **Smart Cities Mission**.

- **सीमेंट**

- **महत्व:** सीमेंट विशेषकर आवास और बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं में आवश्यक है।
- **योगदान:** इसका IIP में **5.37%** भार है।
- **हालिया प्रवृत्तियाँ:** स्मार्ट सिटी जैसी परियोजनाओं के साथ इसका उत्पादन बढ़ा है।

Historical Background and Key Data

- The concept of core sectors was introduced to highlight critical industries impacting overall industrial output.
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** Measures the output of these sectors monthly. Data influences policy-making and economic planning.
- **Recent Developments:** Government initiatives like **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** are directed towards enhancing core sector capacities.

ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि और प्रमुख डेटा:

- **परिचय:** प्रमुख क्षेत्रों का परिचय उद्योगों के प्रदर्शन को मापने के लिए किया गया था।
- **औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP):** मासिक आधार पर इन क्षेत्रों का उत्पादन मापता है।



King Charles, Queen Camilla visit holistic health centre in Bengaluru

PCS
BENGALURU

Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited a Bengaluru-based luxury wellness retreat for a three-day rejuvenation session. This was their first trip to India since he ascended the throne.

The couple quietly arrived at the Soukya International Holistic Health Centre on October 27 and left on Wednesday morning. The King, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, planned this rejuvenation on the advice of his medical team after

all the chemotherapy sessions. While the rejuvenation sessions were similar to those provided to other high-profile guests, therapies were decided based on his health. "The sessions he underwent were for rejuvenation, detoxification and strengthening the immune system," sources said.

King Charles, who had celebrated his 71st birthday at Soukya in 2019, was visiting the Centre for the second time while his wife has stayed at the Centre nine times so far.

The King, who believes in integrative medicine,



The King is visiting the holistic health centre for the second time while his wife has stayed at the centre nine times so far. REUTERS

has a personal interest in a holistic approach to health, organic farming and eco-friendly practices. His main interest is in inte-

grative medicine and he is also patron of the Faculty of Homeopathy in the U.K. He was also a patron of the British Association for Ho-

listic Medicine. In 2018, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he inaugurated an AYUSH centre in London.

South Indian diet

The royal couple stayed at the royal presidential suite at the centre. They were put on a South Indian diet comprising vegetarian organic food, including salads and soups. The couple was said to be fond of idly, dosa and organic soups apart from organic tender coconut water, pomegranate juice and mango pulp juice.

As they were fond of or-

ganic Mallika mangoes grown on the premises of Soukya, the mangoes were being delivered to their palace every year.

Sources said the couple's daily routine began with a yoga session in the morning, followed by breakfast and then rejuvenation therapies before lunch. After a short break, another round of therapies followed, which would end with a meditation session before dinner and bedtime at 9 p.m. The couple enjoyed walking in the organic and medicinal gardens on the Centre's premises, sources said.

To mark his visit, the King planted a Jacaranda tree sapling at the Centre's premises. During his previous visit, in 2019, he had planted a Champaca tree sapling.

Soukya is working on expanding its base to Portugal.

"The royal couple expressed their happiness over our expansion plans and said it would be easier for them to rejuvenate themselves more often due to Portugal's proximity to London," said holistic health practitioner Issac Mathai, who runs the luxury wellness retreat.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR)

- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) is a prominent tiger reserve located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh, India.
- Known for its high density of Bengal tigers, it has been a crucial site for tiger conservation efforts under India's Project Tiger.
- The reserve is named after the ancient "Bandhavgarh Fort," which is historically significant and culturally connected to various mythological stories.
- बांधवगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व (बीटीआर) मध्य प्रदेश के उमरिया जिले में स्थित एक प्रमुख टाइगर रिजर्व है। बाघों की उच्च घनत्व के लिए प्रसिद्ध, यह भारत के प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर के तहत बाघ संरक्षण प्रयासों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण स्थल रहा है।
- इस रिजर्व का नाम प्राचीन "बांधवगढ़ किले" के नाम पर पड़ा है, जो ऐतिहासिक और पौराणिक कहानियों से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968 and was designated as a tiger reserve in 1993 under the Project Tiger initiative.
- The area holds a rich historical legacy, with the Bandhavgarh Fort, dating back over 2000 years, standing as a major attraction.
- बांधवगढ़ को 1968 में राष्ट्रीय उद्यान घोषित किया गया था और 1993 में प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर पहल के तहत एक टाइगर रिजर्व के रूप में नामित किया गया।
- यहां का बांधवगढ़ किला, जो 2000 से अधिक वर्षों पुराना है, एक प्रमुख आकर्षण के रूप में खड़ा है।
- Since the implementation of Project Tiger in 1973, BTR has witnessed various conservation efforts to protect its tiger population.
- The use of technology, such as radio collars and camera traps, has been instrumental in monitoring tiger movements and maintaining a healthy tiger population.
- 1973 में प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर की शुरुआत के बाद से, बीटीआर ने बाघों की जनसंख्या की सुरक्षा के लिए कई संरक्षण प्रयास देखे हैं।
- रेडियो कॉलर और कैमरा ट्रैप जैसी तकनीकों का उपयोग बाघों की गतिविधियों की निगरानी में सहायक





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Contact Number: 9971932488

रहा है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Website: patrioticias.in
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India joins steering committee of asset recovery network

PCS

NEW DELHI

India, represented by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), has been included in the steering committee of the Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network-Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP), a prominent multi-agency network dedicated to tackling the proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region and a member of the global CARIN (Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network).

“This new role will enable India to contribute to ARIN-AP’s decision-making and administrative responsibilities, furthering its mission to combat economic crimes and support asset recovery at a global scale,” said the ED.

“...India will assume the presidency of the network and host the annual general meeting (AGM) in 2026. This milestone provides a unique platform to reinforce India’s leadership in asset recovery and enhance cooperation with regional and international partners,” it said. ARIN-AP was established to facilitate cross-border collaboration on asset tracing, freezing,

ARIN-AP is a multi-agency network dedicated to tackling proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region

and confiscation. It includes 28 member jurisdictions and nine observers and serves as an informal yet robust network as part of CARIN. It operates through a network of contact points, enabling effective communication among member agencies, and of over 100 jurisdictions in CARIN with the ED representing India as the nodal agency.

“Law enforcement agencies across ARIN-AP and CARIN jurisdictions benefit from this network, as it aids in tracing assets related to criminal activities, both movable and immovable, across borders. Through ARIN-AP and the larger CARIN, agencies can exchange information on individuals, assets, and companies informally, often expediting the identification and recovery of proceeds of crime,” said the ED.



Rohini Godbole: indomitable passion for high-energy physics, gender equity

Prof. Godbole was a role model for young researchers, particularly women scientists struggling against gender bias and negative attitudes

Sunil Mukhi

Collider physics studies the outcome of high-energy collisions between microscopic particles such as protons or electrons to learn about the fundamental constituents of our universe. If one mentions this subject in the context of India, the name of Rohini Godbole will be among the first to come up. Prof. Godbole passed away on October 25 after a brief illness. She was 71.

Born into a middle-class Pune family committed to education and learning, she became an internationally renowned theoretical physicist. Her parents supported her career choice, but she faced **condescension** and **gender bias** from professional colleagues at crucial stages of her career. Yet it was not in her nature to be discouraged. She got through the difficult times with energy and determination, with a passion for research and an ability to inspire students. In time, she won global recognition as an accomplished researcher, educator, policymaker, and administrator of science.

Paving the way

A graduate of S.P. College in Pune, Prof. Godbole got a **master's degree at IIT Bombay** and went on to do a PhD at the State University of New York at Stony Brook (now Stony Brook University) in the U.S. During the 1970s, the physics department, under the leadership of Chinese-American Nobel laureate C.N. Yang, had developed a top-class doctoral programme. Unlike Ivy League colleges that could be prejudiced against students from India in those days, Stony Brook quickly became enthusiastic about Indian students, largely due to the success of early recruits such as Prof. Godbole.

Thus she helped pave the way for many others (including myself) to study at the same institution, which I joined a few years later. Our small contingent, newly arrived from India and quite nervous, was fortunate to encounter her as we entered the department on our first day. Her warm welcome contrasted sharply with the standoffish attitude of some other Indian seniors. In the subsequent years, she continued to offer us advice and encouragement with a characteristic generosity of spirit.

Prof. Godbole was popular with both faculty members and students at Stony Brook and was perceived as one of their most talented students. Yet, when she completed her doctorate in 1979, she declined postdoctoral offers from the U.S. and Europe and returned to work at the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai**. I remember the day her first publication from India reached us in Stony Brook. That she could continue to carry out high-quality research convinced many of us to eventually head back ourselves.

Tough time

Her early days in India were not easy. **Despite excellent work, she was told she lacked the talent to become a high-quality independent researcher.** She joined Bombay University, where she had a heavy teaching load even as the system was indifferent to her research, although she acknowledged the support and mentorship of some senior colleagues.

After a heavy day of teaching, she still had the energy to commute across town to TIFR and carry on joint research with



Role model: Rohini Godbole spoke openly of the hurdles she had faced in the past but was never embittered by the experience — nor did she ever gloat after achieving worldwide success. FILE PHOTO

the faculty there. Without even a small desk at which to work, she remained focused on research and did not complain about what the rest of us saw as gender-based discrimination. In 1995 she was offered a faculty position at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, where her life as a researcher became less stressful and she could recruit and guide doctoral students. At this stage, her career soared, and she soon became a celebrity.

A cut above the rest

Rohini Godbole was a classic "elementary particle phenomenologist" — a scientist who studies phenomena that are observed at particle colliders. Her research papers offered interpretations of experimental observations at laboratories like Fermilab in the U.S. and CERN in Geneva and proposed the so-called experimental signatures for theoretical models that are used to test their validity. She co-authored a textbook on supersymmetric models of particle physics, for which evidence is currently being sought at colliders.

She was often invited to sit on panels and working groups. For example, in 2012 she was the seniormost among only four Indians in a study group commissioned by CERN that produced a 600-page report on the feasibility of upgrading the Large Hadron Collider to include electron beams.

By this time she was personally known to all the leading particle physicists around the world and was frequently invited as a keynote speaker at international conferences on high-energy physics. She became a fellow of the national academies and received

Rohini Godbole was a classic 'elementary particle phenomenologist'. Her papers offered interpretations of experimental observations at laboratories like Fermilab and CERN and proposed experimental signatures for theoretical models that are used to test their validity

numerous recognitions, including awards from the governments of India and France. As a visiting professor at European universities, she taught graduate courses on the themes of her research.

At some point it became evident she had outperformed other Indian colleagues in her field, including those who had discouraged her decades earlier. She spoke openly of the hurdles she had faced in the past but was never embittered by the experience — nor did she ever gloat after achieving worldwide success.

Always with a smile

Prof. Godbole was by this time well placed to be a role model for young researchers, particularly women scientists struggling — as she once had — against gender bias and negative attitudes. She cheerfully took on this responsibility and became an advocate for women in science. While continuing to do high-quality research, she founded the 'Women in Science Panel' of the Indian Academy of Sciences and became its first Chair. She was a plenary speaker at the first International Conference on Women in Physics in Paris in 2001. In a

short autobiographical note, she wrote about the experience:

"I was invited to speak about my experience as a woman physicist in India who had achieved some measure of success, and it resonated with the audience. Women from Ghana, Mauritius, and Egypt came to me and said, when Western women talk, we feel that they are from a different culture, but when we listen to you, we feel — if she can do it, we can do it too!"

This experience led her to co-edit a now-famous compilation of career profiles of nearly a hundred Indian women scientists, 'Lilavati's Daughters', and she gave numerous talks and wrote articles on gender-related issues in science. On a few occasions I had the opportunity to sit in committee meetings with her and observe her remarkable style of functioning.

Despite being a talkative person in public spaces, she was an alert listener at meetings and would only express her opinions after carefully absorbing the facts.

Her remarks were direct and pointed, and she fought vigorously for what she believed to be right, but always in constructive language and with a smile.

Let me conclude with a quote from an email circulated at CERN just hours after she passed away in Pune. "It is with profound sadness that we have learnt about the passing of Rohini Godbole. A brilliant phenomenologist and a visionary leader, Rohini has inspired students and researchers across the world."

(Sunil Mukhi is a theoretical physicist at IISER Pune who carries out research in quantum field theory and string theory. sunil.mukhi@iiserpune.ac.in)



GS Paper II: IR

Towards Europe

India used visits by leaders of Germany and Spain to balance ties in Europe

The back-to-back visits to India by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez indicate an attempt by New Delhi to engage with Europe's biggest economies bilaterally. While Mr. Scholz's visit was a scheduled engagement for the bi-annual Inter-Government Consultations, this was his third visit since 2023; Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Germany in 2022. Thus, there were MoUs on innovation and technology, skilling and mobility, and green energy cooperation, as well as improving trade, pegged at \$26 billion, with about \$27 billion in German investments. The conversation over trade and investment intensified with both leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business, a first in India, amidst an attempt by German businesses to reduce their exposure in China. The two-day visit of Mr. Sánchez (officially called the President of the Government of Spain) shone a spotlight on unnoticed India-Spain bilateral ties. Trade is nearly \$10 billion, and Spain is India's 16th largest investor. Despite its relatively lower stakes in India's economy, Spain is increasingly seen as a technology and engineering partner; one of the MoUs signed was for rail transport. The highlight of the visit was the inauguration of an Airbus-Tata private sector plant to assemble C-295 aircraft for the Indian Air Force. It did not go unnoticed that the visits were scheduled close to each other, even as Germany and Spain are competing for defence deals, indicating New Delhi's desire to diversify its options.

The timing of the visits followed just after Mr. Modi's Russia visit for the BRICS summit, and his meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, which show how India continues to balance ties amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India expressed deep concerns over the loss of life in the Ukraine conflict and the need for lasting peace, in the joint statements with Germany and Spain. But the statements differed to a degree in the paragraphs on the West Asian crisis. The statement with Germany squarely condemned Hamas for its actions on October 7 last year, and called for the immediate release of Israeli hostages. The statement with Spain did not name Hamas, and emphasised the need to protect civilians and for all parties to comply with international law. Spain has taken a step away from other European countries by recognising Palestine and blocking all shipments of armaments including from India to Israel. It is important that India continues to engage with European countries individually, as well as with the European Union, especially with such evidence that even the closest partners have nuanced differences on geopolitical issues of the day.

Towards Europe यूरोप की ओर

India used visits by leaders of Germany and Spain to balance ties in Europe.

भारत ने यूरोप में संबंधों को संतुलित करने के लिए जर्मनी और स्पेन के नेताओं के दौरे का उपयोग किया।

The back-to-back visits to India by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez indicate an attempt by New Delhi to engage with Europe's biggest economies bilaterally.

भारत में जर्मनी के चांसलर ओलाफ शोलज़ और स्पेन के प्रधानमंत्री पेद्रो सांचेज़ की लगातार यात्राएं नई दिल्ली द्वारा यूरोप की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंध स्थापित करने के प्रयास को दर्शाती हैं।

Mr. Scholz's visit was a scheduled engagement for the bi-annual Inter-Government Consultations, marking his third visit since 2023. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had previously visited Germany in 2022.

श्री शोलज़ की यात्रा द्विवार्षिक अंतर-सरकारी परामर्श के लिए निर्धारित थी, जो 2023 से उनकी तीसरी यात्रा है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 2022 में जर्मनी का दौरा किया था।

The visit led to MoUs on innovation and technology, skilling and mobility, green energy cooperation, and trade, which stands at \$26 billion, with approximately \$27 billion in German investments.

यात्रा के दौरान नवाचार और प्रौद्योगिकी, कौशल और गतिशीलता, हरित ऊर्जा सहयोग और व्यापार पर समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoUs) पर हस्ताक्षर हुए, जिसमें व्यापार \$26 बिलियन है और जर्मनी का लगभग \$27 बिलियन का निवेश है।





• Both leaders attended the **Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business**, the first of its kind in **India**, aiming to reduce German business exposure to **China**.

दोनों नेताओं ने **जर्मन व्यवसाय का एशिया-प्रशांत सम्मेलन**, जो **भारत** में पहली बार आयोजित हुआ, में भाग लिया, जिसका उद्देश्य **चीन** में जर्मन व्यवसाय के जोखिम को कम करना था।

• **Mr. Sánchez's two-day visit** (officially the President of the Government of **Spain**) highlighted **India-Spain bilateral ties**. The **trade** volume is approximately **\$10 billion**, and **Spain** is India's **16th largest investor**.

श्री सांचेज़ की दो दिवसीय यात्रा (औपचारिक रूप से **स्पेन के राष्ट्रपति** के रूप में) ने **भारत-स्पेन द्विपक्षीय संबंधों** पर प्रकाश डाला। व्यापार लगभग **\$10 बिलियन** है और **स्पेन** भारत का **16वां सबसे बड़ा निवेशक** है।

• Despite Spain's relatively lower economic stake, it is increasingly recognized as a **technology and engineering partner**, with an **MoU** signed for **rail transport**.

भारत में **स्पेन** के अपेक्षाकृत कम आर्थिक हिस्सेदारी के बावजूद इसे **प्रौद्योगिकी और इंजीनियरिंग भागीदार** के रूप में तेजी से पहचाना जा रहा है; **रेल परिवहन** के लिए एक **MoU** पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

• The **highlight** of Mr. Sánchez's visit was the inauguration of an **Airbus-Tata private sector plant** to assemble **C-295 aircraft** for the **Indian Air Force**.

श्री सांचेज़ की यात्रा का मुख्य आकर्षण **भारतीय वायु सेना** के लिए **C-295 विमान** असेंबल करने के लिए एक **एयरबस-टाटा निजी क्षेत्र के संयंत्र** का उद्घाटन था।

• The scheduling of these visits close to each other, despite **Germany** and **Spain** competing for defense deals, reflects **New Delhi's** aim to **diversify** its options.

इन यात्राओं का एक-दूसरे के करीब कार्यक्रम, भले ही **जर्मनी** और **स्पेन** रक्षा सौदों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहे हों, **नई दिल्ली की विकल्पों को विविध बनाने की इच्छा** को दर्शाता है।

• These visits followed **PM Modi's Russia** visit for the **BRICS summit** and meetings with **President Putin** and **President Xi Jinping**, highlighting India's balancing efforts amid the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**.

ये यात्राएं **प्रधानमंत्री मोदी** की **रूस यात्रा** के बाद हुईं, जहाँ उन्होंने **ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन** में **राष्ट्रपति पुतिन** और **राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग** के साथ मुलाकात की, जो **रूस-यूक्रेन संघर्ष** के बीच भारत के संतुलन प्रयासों को दर्शाती हैं।

• In joint statements with **Germany** and **Spain**, India expressed concerns over the **loss of life** in Ukraine and stressed the **need for lasting peace**.

जर्मनी और **स्पेन** के साथ संयुक्त बयानों में, भारत ने यूक्रेन में **जीवन की हानि** पर चिंता व्यक्त की और **स्थायी शांति की आवश्यकता** पर बल दिया।

• Statements differed slightly on the **West Asian crisis**: **Germany's statement** condemned **Hamas** and called for immediate release of **Israeli hostages**.





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

पश्चिम एशियाई संकट पर बयानों में थोड़ा अंतर था: जर्मनी के बयान ने हमास की निंदा की और इस्राइली बंधकों की त्वरित रिहाई का आह्वान किया।

• **Spain's statement** avoided naming **Hamas** and focused on **protecting civilians** and ensuring **compliance with international law** by all parties.

स्पेन के बयान ने हमास का नाम लेने से परहेज किया और नागरिकों की सुरक्षा और सभी पक्षों द्वारा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून के अनुपालन पर जोर दिया।

• **Spain** diverged from other European countries by recognizing **Palestine** and blocking all **armament shipments** including those from **India to Israel**.

स्पेन ने अन्य यूरोपीय देशों से अलग रुख अपनाते हुए फिलिस्तीन को मान्यता दी और भारत से इस्राइल को जाने वाले सभी हथियारों की आपूर्ति पर रोक लगा दी।

• It is important for **India** to continue engaging with **European countries individually** and with the **European Union**, as close partners hold nuanced differences on **geopolitical issues**.

भारत के लिए यूरोपीय देशों और यूरोपीय संघ के साथ व्यक्तिगत रूप से जुड़ाव बनाए रखना महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि निकटतम भागीदारों के पास भू-राजनीतिक मुद्दों पर सूक्ष्म अंतर हैं।

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Importing a toxic work culture into India

An Indian woman in her twenties, working in Pune for a major consultancy firm, died one day after returning home from work. Her mother believes that this had resulted from exhaustion due to overwork at the office.

While the deeper cause would be difficult to ascertain, her parents have spoken publicly about their daughter informing them about the long hours she faced at work and the **stress she endured from unreasonably close deadlines for reports.**

Moreover, soon after the news of her death broke, at least **one former employee has written or spoken in the public domain regarding the work culture that they experienced at the same company, which led him to leave.** Ironically, on the website of the firm's 'India Office' the first entry is a banner declaring that the **company's purpose is "building a better working world"**

An American imprint

The firm concerned is a so-called multinational. This term is somewhat of an **oxymoron**, reflected in the reality that every multinational company has a distinct national affiliation, and national governments avidly work to further the prospects of their own multinationals (MNCs). Thus, when United States President Bill Clinton visited India in 2000, where he was mobbed by our parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha, he had come with a posse of American CEOs seeking opportunities. Most of the world's multinationals are American. This explains their work culture, the essential part of which is an emphasis on long hours apart from the relentless pressure to fulfil stringent targets, whether of sales or, in the case of accounting/consultancy firms, commissioned reports for clients ranging from for-profit firms to governments.

It is useful to understand the provenance of the work culture found in multinationals. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. came to have an outsized influence on global affairs, and its economic architecture, including the work culture, came to be seen as the gold standard. From accounting practices to what is considered normal when it comes to hours of work, 'the American way' became the norm. Now, the culture of the multinationals came to possess the cachet of being of American origin even if the company itself may not be. This culture has a history.

The German sociologist, Max Weber, showed how the reformation of Christianity in northern Europe altered the view of work. Protestantism, especially Calvinism, doctrinally supported worldly activities dedicated to economic gain, seeing them as endowed with a moral and



Pulapre Balakrishnan

Honorary Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

spiritual significance that was equal to working for the Church, which Catholicism had privileged. Weber identified the protestant ethic as a driver of early capitalism. As America was founded by northern Europeans intent on establishing a community based on Protestant beliefs, it is not difficult to see where the glorification of work that came to define the American way of life came from. Weber relies on the writings of the American thinker, Benjamin Franklin, to make his case. The point of all this is to see that the work culture at MNCs is not based on ergonomics or organisational psychology but is actually of religious extraction.

A country comparison of work, productivity

For the economist, it remains pertinent to ask where the American obsession with work has got Americans. I shall base my investigation on data issued by the International Labour Organisation. If we were to make a global comparison of national per capita incomes, a standard measure of the standard of living of a population, we would find that hard work has got the U.S. quite far for sure but not as far as others without the same approach to work. In 2023, the U.S. was the 12th globally in terms of GNP per capita. If we take Guyana out of this list – it was only barely ahead – 10 countries were ahead of the U.S. These were Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland. Note that apart from a tiny Asian country, the rest of the list is exclusively of western European countries.

There is, though, an aspect of the comparison just made that needs mentioning. As productivity measures are based on value, the country that makes more valuable goods would tend to rank higher even if its physical productivity is not higher across all goods. So as to avoid relying on a comparison of value-based productivity levels alone, we may compare how the value-based productivity measure grows over time across countries. When we do this for the period of half a century from 1970, we find that U.S. GNP per capita has grown faster than only Switzerland's, and that too marginally (paucity of data meant that Austria and Singapore had to be excluded from the exercise). So, we find that neither is the population of the U.S. the richest in the world nor is its productivity growth faster. A further assessment of the economic value of hard work is conveyed by the following indicator.

In the above sample, except for Singapore, the average hours worked per person in a year were lower than that in the U.S. in every other country listed above. So, we can see that it is possible to get richer than the U.S. even when working less. There appears to be a difference between

working, a creative mental and physical engagement, and just labouring, as defined by hours worked.

However, talk of national cultures glorifying work can go only this far in accounting for the long hours allegedly worked by employees of multinationals, such as the employee who died. As observed by Karl Marx 150 years ago, the length of the working day is a factor determining profits under capitalism. When only a part of a day's labour by the worker is needed to pay for their maintenance by way of the wage, the rest accrues to the capitalist as profit. As competition among capitalists lowers the rate of profit, capitalists strive to recoup profits by increasing the length of the working day or getting workers to do more and more faster. For consulting firms such as the one in question, the latter would mean producing more reports in less and less time.

An add-on to foreign investment

It is useful to remember that the work culture allegedly existing at the firm was not always present in India. It came along with the foreign investment that was courted as part of the liberalising reforms of 1991. Foreign investment was seen as a route to raising capital formation and bringing along global best practices in management. As for the promised global best practices, the incident involving the Pune firm is at least one data point by which to gauge outcomes. Whatever may be the actual benefits for India of having kept an open house for them, the multinationals seem to have done quite well for themselves since.

It has been reported that during 2017-22, the 'Big Four' among the global consulting firms bagged 305 assignments from the Government of India. The same source reports a figure so large for the revenue that accrued to them from India that I thought it wise to ascertain it before citing it. But in all these cases, it would be of interest to know if expertise as good was not available in India. There is also a record of the governments of some southern States favouring external consultants over local experts who are far more knowledgeable on economic matters.

An upshot of the incident at Pune is that the working hours and practices in the multinationals working in India must be regulated by the government. So should the working hours at the Indian companies directly serving offshore entities, where stress-induced suicides have been reported recently. That these companies, which serve a global clientele, would require them to run shifts that cater to different time zones to ply their business is well understood, but they would have to adhere to Indian norms.

The practices, including working hours, in multinationals functioning in India must be regulated

Importing a toxic work culture into India

भारत में एक विषैले कार्य संस्कृति का आयात

An Indian woman in her twenties, working in Pune for a major consultancy firm, died one day after returning home from work.



एक भारतीय महिला जो बीस के दशक में थी, पुणे में एक प्रमुख परामर्श फर्म के लिए काम कर रही थी, काम से लौटने के एक दिन बाद मर गई।

- Her mother believes that this had resulted from **exhaustion due to overwork** at the office.
उसकी माँ का मानना है कि यह अत्यधिक काम के कारण थकान का परिणाम था।
- While the deeper cause would be difficult to ascertain, her parents have spoken publicly about their daughter informing them about the **long hours** she faced at work and the **stress** she endured from unreasonably close **deadlines** for reports.
हालाँकि गहरी वजह का पता लगाना कठिन होगा, उसके माता-पिता ने सार्वजनिक रूप से यह बताया कि उनकी बेटी ने उन्हें लंबे समय और तनाव के बारे में बताया, जो उसे रिपोर्ट के लिए अनुचित समय सीमा के कारण सहन करना पड़ा।
- Moreover, soon after the news of her death broke, at least one **former employee** has written or spoken in the public domain regarding the **work culture** that they experienced at the same company, which led him to leave.
इसके अलावा, उसकी मृत्यु की खबर फैलने के तुरंत बाद, कम से कम एक पूर्व कर्मचारी ने उसी कंपनी में अनुभव की गई कार्य संस्कृति के बारे में लिखा या सार्वजनिक रूप से बात की, जिसके कारण उसने छोड़ने का निर्णय लिया।
- Ironically, on the website of the firm's '**India Office**' the first entry is a banner declaring that the company's purpose is "**building a better working world.**"
विडंबना यह है कि फर्म के 'भारत कार्यालय' की वेबसाइट पर पहली प्रविष्टि एक बैनर है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि कंपनी का उद्देश्य है "एक बेहतर कार्यस्थल का निर्माण करना।"

An American imprint

एक अमेरिकी छाप

- The firm concerned is a so-called **multinational**.
संबंधित फर्म एक तथाकथित बहुराष्ट्रीय है।
- This term is somewhat of an **oxymoron**, reflected in the reality that every **multinational company** has a distinct national affiliation, and national governments avidly work to further the prospects of their own **multinationals (MNCs)**.
यह शब्द कुछ हद तक एक विरोधाभास है, जो इस वास्तविकता में परिलक्षित होता है कि प्रत्येक बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी की एक अलग राष्ट्रीय संबद्धता होती है, और राष्ट्रीय सरकारें अपने स्वयं के बहुराष्ट्रीय (MNCs) के लिए संभावनाओं को बढ़ाने के लिए उत्सुकता से काम करती हैं।
- Thus, when **United States President Bill Clinton** visited India in **2000**, where he was mobbed by our parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha, he had come with a posse of **American CEOs** seeking opportunities.
इस प्रकार, जब संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति बिल क्लिंटन ने 2000 में भारत का दौरा किया, जहां उन्हें लोकसभा में हमारे सांसदों द्वारा घेर लिया गया, वे अमेरिकी सीईओ के एक समूह के साथ अवसरों की तलाश में आए थे।
- Most of the world's **multinationals** are **American**.
दुनिया की अधिकांश बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियाँ अमेरिकी हैं।





- This explains their **work culture**, the essential part of which is an emphasis on **long hours** apart from the relentless pressure to fulfill **stringent targets**, whether of sales or, in the case of accounting/consultancy firms, commissioned reports for clients ranging from for-profit firms to governments.
यह उनके कार्य संस्कृति को स्पष्ट करता है, जिसका एक आवश्यक भाग लंबे समय पर जोर देना है, इसके अलावा कठोर लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए निरंतर दबाव है, चाहे वह बिक्री का हो या, लेखांकन/परामर्श कंपनियों के मामले में, लाभ के लिए फर्मों से लेकर सरकारी क्लाइंटों के लिए कमीशन की गई रिपोर्ट।
- It is useful to understand the **provenance** of the work culture found in multinationals.
बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों में पाए जाने वाले कार्य संस्कृति की उद्भव को समझना उपयोगी है।
- With the collapse of the **Soviet Union**, the U.S. came to have an outsized influence on global affairs, and its **economic architecture**, including the work culture, came to be seen as the **gold standard**.
सोवियत संघ के पतन के साथ, अमेरिका का वैश्विक मामलों पर एक बड़ा प्रभाव पड़ा, और इसकी आर्थिक संरचना, जिसमें कार्य संस्कृति भी शामिल है, को स्वर्ण मानक के रूप में देखा जाने लगा।
- From accounting practices to what is considered normal when it comes to **hours of work**, 'the American way' became the **norm**.
लेखांकन प्रथाओं से लेकर जब काम के घंटों की बात आती है, 'अमेरिकी तरीका' मानक बन गया।
- Now, the culture of the **multinationals** came to possess the cachet of being of **American origin** even if the company itself may not be.
अब, बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों की संस्कृति को अमेरिकी मूल होने का गुण मिला, भले ही कंपनी स्वयं ऐसा न हो।
- This culture has a **history**.
इस संस्कृति का एक इतिहास है।
- The German sociologist, **Max Weber**, showed how the **reformation of Christianity** in northern Europe altered the view of work.
जर्मन समाजशास्त्री, मैक्स वेबर, ने दिखाया कि उत्तरी यूरोप में ईसाई धर्म के सुधार ने काम के दृष्टिकोण को कैसे बदला।
- **Protestantism**, especially **Calvinism**, doctrinally supported worldly activities dedicated to **economic gain**, seeing them as endowed with a moral and spiritual significance that was equal to working for the **Church**, which **Catholicism** had privileged.
प्रोटेस्टेंटिज़्म, विशेष रूप से कैल्विनिज़्म, आर्थिक लाभ के लिए समर्पित सांसारिक गतिविधियों का शिक्षण रूप से समर्थन करता था, उन्हें गिरजाघर के लिए काम करने के समान नैतिक और आध्यात्मिक महत्व के रूप में देखा जाता था, जिसे कैथोलिसिज़्म ने विशेषता दी थी।
- Weber identified the **protestant ethic** as a driver of **early capitalism**.
वेबर ने प्रोटेस्टेंट नैतिकता को प्रारंभिक पूंजीवाद का चालक माना।
- As America was founded by northern Europeans intent on establishing a community based on **Protestant beliefs**, it is not difficult to see where the **glorification of work** that came to define the **American way of life** came from.
चूंकि अमेरिका का स्थापना उत्तरी यूरोपियों द्वारा प्रोटेस्टेंट विश्वासों पर आधारित एक समुदाय स्थापित करने के इरादे से की गई थी, यह देखना कठिन नहीं है कि काम की महिमा जो अमेरिकी जीवनशैली को परिभाषित करती है, कहां से आई।
- Weber relies on the writings of the **American thinker, Benjamin Franklin**, to make his case.





वेबर अपने मामले को स्थापित करने के लिए अमेरिकी विचारक, बेंजामिन फ्रैंकलिन की रचनाओं पर निर्भर करते हैं।

- The point of all this is to see that the **work culture** at **MNCs** is not based on **ergonomics** or **organizational psychology** but is actually of **religious extraction**. इस सबका सार यह है कि **MNCs** में कार्य संस्कृति एर्गोनोमिक्स या संगठनात्मक मनोविज्ञान पर आधारित नहीं है, बल्कि यह वास्तव में धार्मिक उत्पत्ति की है।

A Country Comparison of Work, Productivity

काम, उत्पादकता की देश तुलना

- For the economist, it remains pertinent to ask where the American obsession with work has got Americans.
अर्थशास्त्री के लिए, यह पूछना प्रासंगिक है कि **अमेरिकियों** को **काम** के प्रति **अवसाद** ने कहाँ पहुँचाया है।
- I shall base my investigation on data issued by the International Labour Organisation.
मैं अपनी जांच को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन** द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों पर आधारित करूंगा।
- If we were to make a global comparison of national per capita incomes, a standard measure of the standard of living of a population, we would find that hard work has got the U.S. quite far for sure but not as far as others without the same approach to work.
यदि हम **राष्ट्रीय प्रति व्यक्ति आय** की **वैश्विक तुलना** करें, जो कि एक जनसंख्या के **जीविक स्तर** का मानक माप है, तो हम पाएंगे कि **कड़ी मेहनत** ने अमेरिका को **काफी दूर** पहुँचाया है, लेकिन **अन्य देशों** की तुलना में नहीं।
- In 2023, the U.S. was the 12th globally in terms of GNP per capita.
2023 में, अमेरिका **प्रतिव्यक्ति GNP** के मामले में **दुनिया में 12वां** था।
- If we take Guyana out of this list — it was only barely ahead — 10 countries were ahead of the U.S.
यदि हम इस सूची से **गुयाना** को हटा दें — यह केवल **थोड़ा आगे** था — तो **10 देश** अमेरिका से **आगे** थे।
- These were Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland.
ये देश थे **ऑस्ट्रिया, बेल्जियम, डेनमार्क, आयरलैंड, लक्जमबर्ग, नीदरलैंड, नॉर्वे, सिंगापुर, स्वीडन, और स्विट्ज़रलैंड**।
- Note that apart from a tiny Asian country, the rest of the list is exclusively of western European countries.
ध्यान दें कि **एक छोटे एशियाई देश** को छोड़कर, सूची में बाकी सभी देश विशेष रूप से **पश्चिमी यूरोपीय** देश हैं।
- There is, though, an aspect of the comparison just made that needs mentioning.
हालांकि, अभी की गई तुलना का एक पहलू उल्लेखनीय है।
- As productivity measures are based on value, the country that makes more valuable goods would tend to rank higher even if its physical productivity is not higher across all goods.
चूंकि **उत्पादकता** के माप **मूल्य** पर आधारित होते हैं, इसलिए जो देश अधिक मूल्यवान वस्तु बनाता है, वह **उच्च रैंक** पर आ सकता है, भले ही इसकी **शारीरिक उत्पादकता** सभी वस्तुओं में अधिक न हो।





- So as to avoid relying on a comparison of value-based productivity levels alone, we may compare how the value-based productivity measure grows over time across countries. इसलिए, केवल **मूल्य-आधारित उत्पादकता** स्तर की तुलना पर निर्भर रहने से बचने के लिए, हम देख सकते हैं कि **मूल्य-आधारित उत्पादकता** का माप देशों में **समय के साथ** कैसे बढ़ता है।
- When we do this for the period of half a century from 1970, we find that U.S. GNP per capita has grown faster than only Switzerland's, and that too marginally (paucity of data meant that Austria and Singapore had to be excluded from the exercise). जब हम **1970** से लेकर **पचास साल** के इस काल में ऐसा करते हैं, तो हम पाते हैं कि अमेरिका का प्रतिव्यक्ति **GNP** केवल **स्विट्ज़रलैंड** से ही **जल्दी बढ़ा**, और वह भी **थोड़ा**।
- So, we find that neither is the population of the U.S. the richest in the world nor is its productivity growth faster. तो, हम पाते हैं कि **अमेरिका** की **जनसंख्या** न तो दुनिया में **सबसे धनी** है और न ही इसकी **उत्पादकता वृद्धि** तेज है।
- A further assessment of the economic value of hard work is conveyed by the following indicator. **कड़ी मेहनत के आर्थिक मूल्य** का एक और आकलन निम्नलिखित संकेतक द्वारा व्यक्त किया गया है।
- In the above sample, except for Singapore, the average hours worked per person in a year were lower than that in the U.S. in every other country listed above. ऊपर दिए गए **नमूने** में, **सिंगापुर** को छोड़कर, प्रति व्यक्ति **वार्षिक कार्य घंटे** अमेरिका से **कम** थे।
- So, we can see that it is possible to get richer than the U.S. even when working less. तो, हम देख सकते हैं कि **कम काम** करते हुए भी **अमेरिका** से **अधिक समृद्ध** होना संभव है।
- There appears to be a difference between working, a creative mental and physical engagement, and just labouring, as defined by hours worked. ऐसा लगता है कि **काम** करने, जो एक **रचनात्मक मानसिक और शारीरिक संलग्नता** है, और केवल **श्रम** करने, जिसे कार्य घंटों द्वारा परिभाषित किया गया है, के बीच **अंतर** है।
- However, talk of national cultures glorifying work can go only this far in accounting for the long hours allegedly worked by employees of multinationals, such as the employee who died. हालाँकि, **राष्ट्रीय संस्कृतियों** में **काम** को महिमामंडित करने की बात केवल इस हद तक ही **मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों** के कर्मचारियों द्वारा कथित तौर पर काम किए गए **लंबे घंटे** को समझा सकती है, जैसे कि मृत कर्मचारी।
- As observed by Karl Marx a 150 years ago, the length of the working day is a factor determining profits under capitalism. **कार्ल मार्क्स** ने **150 वर्ष** पहले देखा था कि **काम के दिन की लंबाई** पूंजीवाद के तहत **लाभ** निर्धारित करने वाला एक कारक है।
- When only a part of a day's labour by the worker is needed to pay for their maintenance by way of the wage, the rest accrues to the capitalist as profit. जब केवल **दिन की श्रम** का एक हिस्सा **मजदूरी** के द्वारा अपने **रखरखाव** के लिए आवश्यक होता है, तो बाकी **पूंजीपति** के लिए **लाभ** के रूप में जमा होता है।
- As competition among capitalists lowers the rate of profit, capitalists strive to recoup profits by increasing the length of the working day or getting workers to do more and more faster. जैसे-जैसे पूंजीपतियों के बीच **प्रतिस्पर्धा लाभ** की दर को कम करती है, पूंजीपति **काम के दिन की लंबाई** बढ़ाकर या श्रमिकों को **जल्दी** अधिक करने के लिए प्रयासरत होते हैं।





- For consulting firms such as the one in question, the latter would mean producing more reports in less and less time.
जैसे कि इस मामले में **सलाहकार फर्मों** के लिए, इसका मतलब होगा कि **कम समय में अधिक रिपोर्ट** बनाना।
- An add-on to foreign investment
विदेशी निवेश का एक हिस्सा
- It is useful to remember that the work culture allegedly existing at the firm was not always present in India.
यह याद रखना उपयोगी है कि **फर्म में काम की संस्कृति** जो कथित तौर पर मौजूद है, वह हमेशा **भारत में नहीं थी।**
- It came along with the foreign investment that was courted as part of the liberalising reforms of 1991.
यह **1991 के उदारवादी सुधारों** का हिस्सा बनते हुए **विदेशी निवेश** के साथ आया।
- Foreign investment was seen as a route to raising capital formation and bringing along global best practices in management.
विदेशी निवेश को **पूंजी निर्माण** बढ़ाने और **प्रबंधन में वैश्विक सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रथाओं** लाने के लिए एक मार्ग के रूप में देखा गया।
- As for the promised global best practices, the incident involving the Pune firm is at least one data point by which to gauge outcomes.
जहां तक **प्रतिज्ञा की गई वैश्विक सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रथाओं** का सवाल है, **पुणे** के फर्म से संबंधित घटना **परिणामों** को मापने के लिए एक **डेटा पॉइंट** है।
- Whatever may be the actual benefits for India of having kept an open house for them, the multinationals seem to have done quite well for themselves since.
उनके लिए **खुला दरवाजा** रखने के वास्तविक लाभों से कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता, **मल्टीनेशनल** कंपनियों ने तब से अपने लिए **अच्छा** किया है।
- It has been reported that during 2017-22, the 'Big Four' among the global consulting firms bagged the maximum amount of fees for their services in India.
2017-22 के दौरान **वैश्विक सलाहकार फर्मों** में **बिग फोर** ने **भारत में अपने सेवाओं** के लिए अधिकतम **फीस** प्राप्त की।
- However, whether the cultural ethos that many within the industry might find overbearing should be allowed to fester in the workforce remains an open question.
हालांकि, क्या **उद्योग** के कई लोगों को **अत्यधिक** लगने वाली **संस्कृति** को कार्यबल में **खिलने** की अनुमति दी जानी चाहिए, यह एक **खुला सवाल** बना हुआ है।
- To sum up, there seems to be no shortage of will to work hard among employees of multinational firms in India.
संक्षेप में, भारत में **मल्टीनेशनल फर्मों** के कर्मचारियों के बीच **कड़ी मेहनत** करने की **इच्छा** की कोई कमी नहीं दिखाई देती।
- However, it is debatable whether this has made the workplace, as is suggested in the wake of the Pune incident, a better place to be in.
हालांकि, यह बहस का विषय है कि क्या इसने कार्यस्थल को, जैसा कि **पुणे** की घटना के बाद सुझाव दिया गया है, **बेहतर** स्थान बनाया है



Tackle the issue of adjournments, case pendency

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, recently said that the culture of judicial adjournments should go. She highlighted this while speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference of District Judiciary, organised by the Supreme Court of India, in New Delhi in September. She further said that the poor and the rural population suffer injustice silently rather than going to the courts out of a fear of the delay in getting the cases resolved.

The concern raised by the President is genuine. And it needs to be addressed at the earliest with a viable solution.

Under British rule and after Independence, civil courts dealt with all kinds of civil issues by following the Code of Civil Procedure. Another is criminal courts to deal with criminal cases under the Criminal Procedure Code. Besides them, the Supreme Court and High Courts deal with constitutional cases by issuing writs under the Constitution and Appellate powers. These courts are still functioning.

Reasons for the lag

With an aim to reduce the burden of pendency on civil courts, the tribunal system was introduced through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 to deal with specialised subjects. Likewise, special laws were enacted with specialised forums or courts. Most of these statutes prescribe a time-line for adjudication of the cases. Sometimes, to end the public outcry – as it happened during the distressing case of a rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata – provision is made to decide a case in a fixed and time-bound manner. But hardly any of the cases meet the time-line fixed by the statute. The major reasons include the judge-population ratio. As in 2024, in the Law Minister's reply in the Lok Sabha, there are 21 judges per million population



Baglekar Akash Kumar

an advocate in the High Court of Telangana

against the recommendations of the 120th report of the Law Commission of India of having 50 judges per million population. The second is because of not filling vacant posts of judges in a time-bound manner. The third is about giving one judge the additional charge of two or more courts, even in the so-called specialised courts that are created in haste in order to control public outcry. The fourth is in enacting pieces of legislation without prior judicial-impact assessment, and the fifth is the inordinate delay in bringing witnesses to courts.

Judge numbers

On the issue of pendency in High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1,114 judges (as on December 31, 2023), which itself is much less when compared to the population and number of cases being filed, the present strength of judges is 770 (as on October 30, 2024), or 30% of vacancies. Besides dealing with writ matters, as prescribed by the Constitution, almost every piece of legislation confers appeal, revision, transfer, quash, bail, contempt and other miscellaneous powers upon High Courts. In 2021, six specialised tribunals were abolished and their functions conferred on High Courts. Thus, all this is resulting in a huge backlog of cases in High Courts. On an average, it takes between six to seven years for a case to be decided in a High Court.

So far as the Supreme Court is concerned, though it is functioning with almost a full sanctioned strength of 34 judges, there are nearly two dozen statutes which provide for direct appeal to the Supreme Court, besides it exercising writ and appeal powers. Almost every decision, mostly against orders of the High Courts in north India, is challenged before the Supreme Court, under Article 136, resulting in huge case pendency.

All judges, right from the district judiciary to the Supreme Court, are working overtime to meet the huge pendency demand. For example, a magistrate in a criminal court has to do regular call work, take cognisance of fresh cases, conduct a trial, pass judgments, deal with arrests (remand), private complaints, bails, also record dying declarations, and carry out other miscellaneous works. If he is given additional charge of another court, there is the work of that court to be done as well. Thus, dealing with so much varied work and with almost 100 cases in a day may cause great mental stress to the judge. Thus he may not be able to concentrate while writing judgments, which will lead to errors. This could be a reason for further challenge and delay.

Some suggestions

"Mediation" is seen as an alternative mechanism, where both parties have to give their consent to resolve disputes amicably, but given the mindset of even one party to the dispute to fight a court battle, it is high time that the recommendation of the Justice M. Jagannadha Rao Committee, which proposed "judicial impact assessment" of every legislation, is implemented. The committee had suggested that every Bill should estimate the expenses of additional cases that may arise out of a new Bill and mention the number of civil and criminal cases likely to arise out of the new Bill, the number of courts, judges and staff that are necessary, and the infrastructure. The committee's report was commended even by the Supreme Court in *Salem Advocate Bar Association (II) vs Union of India* (2005). Besides that, the High Court and State government concerned should collaborate to start the process of filling up the proposed vacancy in the district judiciary, six months in advance. Also, no additional charge should be conferred on a judge, thereby allowing him to concentrate on the cases in his own court.

The concern that the President of India expressed on the subject is valid, but there are major reasons for the rise

Tackle the issue of adjournments, case pendency

अधिवेशन और मामले की पेंडेंसी के मुद्दे को संबोधित करना

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, recently said that the culture of judicial adjournments should go.

भारत की राष्ट्रपति, द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने हाल ही में कहा कि न्यायिक अधिवेशन की संस्कृति समाप्त होनी चाहिए।





- She highlighted this while speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference of District Judiciary, organised by the Supreme Court of India, in New Delhi in September.
उन्होंने यह बात सितंबर में नई दिल्ली में भारतीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा आयोजित दो दिवसीय जिला न्यायपालिका की राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन के समापन सत्र में कही।
- She further said that the poor and the rural population suffer injustice silently rather than going to the courts out of a fear of the delay in getting the cases resolved.
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि गरीब और ग्रामीण जनसंख्या चुपचाप अन्याय का सामना करती है, बजाय इसके कि वे अदालतों में जाएं क्योंकि उन्हें मामलों के हल होने में देरी का डर होता है।
- The concern raised by the President is genuine.
राष्ट्रपति द्वारा उठाया गया चिंता वास्तविक है।
- And it needs to be addressed at the earliest with a viable solution.
और इसे एक व्यावहारिक समाधान के साथ शीघ्र ही संबोधित करने की आवश्यकता है।
- Under British rule and after Independence, **civil courts dealt with all kinds of civil issues** by following the **Code of Civil Procedure**.
ब्रिटिश राज और स्वतंत्रता के बाद, नागरिक न्यायालयों ने नागरिक प्रक्रिया संहिता का पालन करते हुए सभी प्रकार के नागरिक मुद्दों को निपटाया।
- Another is **criminal courts to deal with criminal cases** under the **Criminal Procedure Code**.
दूसरे हैं आपराधिक न्यायालय, जो आपराधिक प्रक्रिया संहिता के तहत आपराधिक मामलों से निपटते हैं।
- Besides them, the Supreme Court and High Courts deal with constitutional cases by issuing writs under the Constitution and Appellate powers.
इनके अलावा, सुप्रीम कोर्ट और उच्च न्यायालय संवैधानिक मामलों को संविधान के तहत विरासत जारी करके और अपील शक्तियों के माध्यम से निपटते हैं।
- These courts are still functioning.
ये न्यायालय अब भी कार्यरत हैं।

Reasons for the lag

देरी के कारण

- With an aim to reduce the burden of pendency on civil courts, the **tribunal system was introduced through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976** to deal with specialised subjects.
नागरिक न्यायालयों पर पेंडेंसी का बोझ कम करने के उद्देश्य से, 1976 में 42वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम के माध्यम से विशेष विषयों को संभालने के लिए ट्रिब्यूनल प्रणाली पेश की गई।
- Likewise, special laws were enacted with specialised forums or courts.
इसी प्रकार, विशेष कानून बनाए गए जिनमें विशेष फोरम या न्यायालय शामिल हैं।
- Most of these statutes prescribe a time-line for adjudication of the cases.
इनमें से अधिकांश कानून मामलों के निपटारे के लिए समय-सीमा निर्धारित करते हैं।
- Sometimes, to end the public outcry — as it happened during the distressing case of a rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata — provision is made to decide a case in a fixed and time-bound manner.





कभी-कभी, **जनता की हंगामे** को समाप्त करने के लिए - जैसा कि कोलकाता में एक महिला डॉक्टर के **बलात्कार** और **हत्या** के मामले में हुआ - एक मामले को निश्चित और समयबद्ध तरीके से **निर्णय** करने का प्रावधान किया जाता है।

- But hardly any of the cases meet the time-line fixed by the statute. लेकिन बहुत कम मामले उस समय-सीमा को पूरा करते हैं जो कानून द्वारा निर्धारित की गई है।
- The major reasons include the **judge-population ratio**. मुख्य कारणों में **न्यायाधीश-जनसंख्या** अनुपात शामिल है।
- As in 2024, in the Law Minister's reply in the Lok Sabha, there are **21 judges per million population against the recommendations of the 120th report of the Law Commission of India of having 50 judges per million population**. **2024** में, लोकसभा में **कानून मंत्री** के उत्तर के अनुसार, प्रति **10 लाख** जनसंख्या पर **21 न्यायाधीश** हैं, जबकि भारत के **कानून आयोग** की 120वीं रिपोर्ट की सिफारिश थी कि प्रति 10 लाख जनसंख्या पर 50 न्यायाधीश होने चाहिए।
- The second is because of **not filling vacant posts of judges** in a time-bound manner. दूसरा कारण यह है कि न्यायाधीशों के **खाली पदों** को समयबद्ध तरीके से नहीं भरा गया है।
- The third is about **giving one judge the additional charge of two or more courts**, even in the so-called specialised courts that are created in haste in order to control public outcry. तीसरा यह है कि एक न्यायाधीश को दो या अधिक न्यायालयों का **अतिरिक्त प्रभार** दिया जाता है, यहां तक कि उन तथाकथित विशेष न्यायालयों में भी जो **जनता के हंगामे** को नियंत्रित करने के लिए जल्दी में बनाए गए हैं।
- The fourth is in **enacting pieces of legislation without prior judicial-impact assessment**. चौथा कारण यह है कि बिना पूर्व **न्यायिक-प्रभाव** आकलन के विधायी टुकड़ों को लागू किया जाता है।
- The fifth is the **inordinate delay in bringing witnesses to courts**. और पांचवां कारण गवाहों को न्यायालयों में लाने में **अत्यधिक देरी** है।

Judge numbers

न्यायाधीशों की संख्या

- On the issue of pendency in High Courts, against the **sanctioned strength of 1,114 judges** (as on **December 31, 2023**), which itself is much less when compared to the population and number of cases being filed, the present strength of judges is **770** (as on **October 30, 2024**), or **30% of vacancies**. उच्च न्यायालयों में पेंडेंसी के मुद्दे पर, **1,114 न्यायाधीशों की स्वीकृत संख्या** (**31 दिसंबर 2023** को) के मुकाबले, जो जनसंख्या और दायर किए गए मामलों की संख्या की तुलना में बहुत कम है, वर्तमान में न्यायाधीशों की संख्या **770** है (**30 अक्टूबर 2024** को), या **30%** रिक्त पद हैं।
- Besides dealing with writ matters, as prescribed by the Constitution, almost every piece of legislation confers **appeal, revision, transfer, quash, bail, contempt** and other **miscellaneous powers** upon High Courts. संविधान द्वारा निर्धारित रिट मामलों के अलावा, लगभग हर कानून **अपील, संशोधन, स्थानांतरण, खारिज, जमानत, अवमानना** और अन्य **विविध शक्तियों** को उच्च न्यायालयों पर लागू करता है।





- In **2021**, six specialised tribunals were abolished and their functions conferred on High Courts.
2021 में, छह विशेष ट्रिब्यूनल समाप्त कर दिए गए और उनके कार्यों को उच्च न्यायालयों को सौंपा गया।
- Thus, all this is resulting in a huge backlog of cases in High Courts.
इस प्रकार, इन सभी का परिणाम उच्च न्यायालयों में मामलों के विशाल **बैकलॉग** में हो रहा है।
- **On an average, it takes between six to seven years for a case to be decided in a High Court.**
औसतन, एक मामले का **निर्णय** होने में उच्च न्यायालय में **छह से सात वर्ष** लगते हैं।
- So far as the Supreme Court is concerned, though it is functioning with almost a **full sanctioned strength of 34 judges**, there are nearly **two dozen statutes** which provide for direct appeal to the Supreme Court, besides it exercising writ and appeal powers.
जहां तक **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** का संबंध है, हालांकि यह लगभग **34 न्यायाधीशों** की पूर्ण स्वीकृत संख्या के साथ कार्यरत है, वहां लगभग **दो दर्जन कानून** हैं जो सीधे सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील का प्रावधान करते हैं, इसके अलावा यह रिट और अपील शक्तियों का प्रयोग भी करता है।
- Almost every decision, mostly against orders of the High Courts in **north India**, is challenged before the Supreme Court, under **Article 136**, resulting in huge case pendency.
लगभग हर निर्णय, मुख्यतः **उत्तर भारत** के उच्च न्यायालयों के आदेशों के खिलाफ, **अनुच्छेद 136** के तहत सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती दी जाती है, जिससे मामलों की बड़ी पेंडेंसी होती है।
- All judges, right from the district judiciary to the Supreme Court, are working **overtime** to meet the huge pendency demand.
जिला न्यायपालिका से लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट तक सभी न्यायाधीश **ओवरटाइम** काम कर रहे हैं ताकि बड़ी पेंडेंसी की मांग को पूरा किया जा सके।
- For example, **a magistrate in a criminal court has to do regular call work, take cognisance of fresh cases, conduct a trial, pass judgments, deal with arrests (remand), private complaints, bails, also record dying declarations, and carry out other miscellaneous works.**
उदाहरण के लिए, एक **आपराधिक** न्यायालय में **मैजिस्ट्रेट** को नियमित कॉल कार्य करना होता है, नए मामलों का संज्ञान लेना होता है, **न्यायालयीन सुनवाई** करना, निर्णय देना, **गिरफ्तारी** (रिमांड) से संबंधित कार्य करना, निजी शिकायतों का निपटारा करना, **जमानत** देना, साथ ही **मरती हुई घोषणाओं** को रिकॉर्ड करना और अन्य विविध कार्य करना होता है।
- If he is given additional charge of another court, there is the work of that court to be done as well.
यदि उसे दूसरे न्यायालय का **अतिरिक्त प्रभार** दिया जाता है, तो उस न्यायालय का कार्य भी करना होता है।
- Thus, dealing with so much varied work and with almost **100 cases in a day** may cause great mental stress to the judge.
इस प्रकार, इतनी विविधता से भरे कार्य और लगभग **100 मामलों** के साथ निपटने से न्यायाधीश को **मानसिक तनाव** हो सकता है।
- Thus he may not be able to concentrate while writing judgments, which will lead to errors.
इस प्रकार, वह निर्णय लिखते समय **एकाग्र** नहीं हो पाएगा, जिससे **त्रुटियां** हो सकती हैं।
- This could be a reason for further challenge and delay.
यह और भी **चुनौती** और **देरी** का कारण हो सकता है।





Some suggestions

कुछ सुझाव

- **“Mediation” is seen as an alternative mechanism, where both parties have to give their consent to resolve disputes amicably**, but given the mindset of even one party to the dispute to fight a court battle, it is high time that the recommendation of the **Justice M. Jagannadha Rao Committee**, which proposed **“judicial impact assessment” of every legislation**, is implemented.
“मध्यस्थता” को एक वैकल्पिक तंत्र के रूप में देखा जाता है, जहां दोनों पक्षों को विवादों को सौहार्दपूर्ण ढंग से हल करने के लिए अपनी सहमति देनी होती है, लेकिन जब एक पक्ष का मानसिकता अदालत में लड़ाई करने की होती है, तब यह उच्च समय है कि **न्यायमूर्ति एम. जगन्नाथ राव समिति** की सिफारिश, जिसने हर कानून का **“न्यायिक प्रभाव आकलन”** प्रस्तावित किया, लागू की जाए।
- The **committee had suggested that every Bill should estimate the expenses of additional cases that may arise out of a new Bill and mention the number of civil and criminal cases likely to arise out of the new Bill, the number of courts, judges and staff that are necessary, and the infrastructure.**
समिति ने सुझाव दिया था कि हर **बिल** को नए बिल से उत्पन्न होने वाले अतिरिक्त मामलों के **व्यय** का अनुमान लगाना चाहिए और नए बिल से उत्पन्न होने वाले **नागरिक** और **आपराधिक मामलों** की संख्या, आवश्यक न्यायालयों, न्यायाधीशों और स्टाफ की संख्या और **आधारभूत ढांचा** का उल्लेख करना चाहिए।
- The committee’s report was commended even by the Supreme Court in **Salem Advocate Bar Association (II) vs Union of India (2005).**
समिति की रिपोर्ट को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** द्वारा भी **सलेम वकील बार संघ (II) बनाम भारत संघ (2005)** में सराहा गया।
- Besides that, the High Court and State government concerned should collaborate to start the process of **filling up the proposed vacancy in the district judiciary, six months in advance.**
इसके अलावा, संबंधित उच्च न्यायालय और राज्य सरकार को जिला न्यायपालिका में प्रस्तावित रिक्तियों को भरने की प्रक्रिया शुरू करने के लिए **छह महीने** पहले सहयोग करना चाहिए।
- Also, no additional charge should be conferred on a judge, thereby allowing him to concentrate on the cases in his own court.
इसके अलावा, किसी न्यायाधीश को **अतिरिक्त प्रभार** नहीं सौंपा जाना चाहिए, जिससे वह अपने न्यायालय के मामलों पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर सके।





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

PATRIOTIC IAS

Website: patrioticias.in
Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>





Sun signs

States should prepare to assist the vulnerable during extreme heat events

Policy decisions that are clairvoyant are most likely to serve well, and for long. A clairvoyance that comes from reading the signs today and now, can save lives, and make living better. Tamil Nadu's move to declare heat as a State-specific disaster, rendering people so affected eligible for assistance from the State, is unequivocally a beacon shining in a country where environmental degradation goes together with unplanned cities, poverty, and limited access to shelter and health care. The World Meteorological Organization declared that 2023 was the hottest year on record. A study on 'Deadly heat waves projected in the densely populated agricultural regions of South Asia' portends that the most intense hazard from extreme future heatwaves will be concentrated around the densely populated agricultural regions of the Ganges and Indus basins. It is critical that the human body remains at the optimal temperature of 37° Celsius: living in temperatures that constantly and consistently exceed this limit can cause immeasurable stress and the breakdown of bodily functions, impact vital organs, and lead to death in vulnerable populations. Tamil Nadu's move is a laudable recognition of the inevitability of extreme weather events affecting people's health even as it prepares to address issues arising out of extreme heat events. The government order says many parts of Tamil Nadu have consistently recorded temperatures above 40° C during the summer of 2024, acknowledging that heatwaves are emerging as a threat affecting the day-to-day life of the elderly, children, those with prior illnesses, comorbidities and those who work in open environments. Tamil Nadu's vulnerability is exacerbated by its long coastline where humidity goes up during summer, giving rise to the peculiar wet-bulb temperature phenomenon. The World Economic Forum has warned that global warming is on track to reach a 'wet-bulb temperature' level of 35° C, where humans can no longer regulate safe body temperature through sweating.

While mechanisms must be alerted to mitigate the effects of global warming at the local, regional and national levels, it is also sagacious to prepare during the interim. The Tamil Nadu government's move to provide relief to the victims of heatwave under the State Disaster Response Fund will feature a comprehensive range of activities, including *ex gratia* payment to families of those who died of heat-related conditions; provision for medical care, and drinking water, including supply of ORS packets, and rescheduling working hours, will make the State and its most vulnerable at least prepared for the worst. Other States would do well to be inspired by this model.

Ganges and Indus basins.

States should prepare to assist the vulnerable during extreme heat events

राज्यों को चरम गर्मी की घटनाओं के दौरान कमजोर लोगों की सहायता करने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए

Policy decisions that are clairvoyant are most likely to serve well, and for long.

प्रबुद्ध नीतिगत निर्णय लंबे समय तक अच्छा परिणाम देने की संभावना रखते हैं।

- A **clairvoyance** that comes from reading the signs today and now can **save lives** and make living better. आज और अभी के संकेतों को पढ़ने से प्राप्त प्रबुद्धता जीवन बचा सकती है और जीवन को बेहतर बना सकती है।

- **Tamil Nadu's move to declare heat as a State-specific disaster, rendering people so affected eligible for assistance from the State**, is a **beacon** in a country where **environmental degradation** goes together with **unplanned cities, poverty**, and limited access to **shelter and health care**.

तमिलनाडु का गर्मी को राज्य-विशिष्ट आपदा घोषित करने का कदम, प्रभावित लोगों को राज्य से सहायता के लिए योग्य बनाता है, यह एक देश में प्रकाशस्तंभ है जहाँ पर्यावरणीय क्षरण अव्यवस्थित शहरों, गरीबी और आश्रय एवं स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की सीमित पहुँच के साथ है।

- The **World Meteorological Organization** declared that **2023 was the hottest year on record**.

विश्व मौसम संगठन ने घोषणा की कि 2023 अब तक का सबसे गर्म वर्ष था।

- A study on '**Deadly heat waves** projected in the densely populated agricultural regions of **South Asia**' portends that the most intense hazard from **extreme future heatwaves** will be concentrated around the densely populated **agricultural regions of the**





'दक्षिण एशिया के घनी आबादी वाले कृषि क्षेत्रों में संभावित घातक हीट वेव' पर एक अध्ययन बताता है कि भविष्य में चरम गर्मी की लहरों का सबसे तीव्र खतरा गंगा और सिंधु बेसिन के घनी आबादी वाले कृषि क्षेत्रों के आसपास केंद्रित होगा।**

- It is critical that the **human body** remains at the optimal temperature of **37° Celsius**: living in temperatures that constantly and consistently exceed this limit can cause **stress** and **breakdown of bodily functions**, impact **vital organs**, and lead to **death** in **vulnerable populations**.

यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि मानव शरीर का तापमान 37° सेल्सियस पर बना रहे; इस सीमा को लगातार और स्थायी रूप से पार करना तनाव और शारीरिक कार्यों का टूटना, महत्वपूर्ण अंगों पर प्रभाव डालना और कमजोर जनसंख्या में मृत्यु का कारण बन सकता है।

- **Tamil Nadu's** move is a **laudable** recognition of the **inevitability** of extreme weather events affecting people's **health** even as it prepares to address issues arising out of **extreme heat events**.

तमिलनाडु का कदम चरम मौसम की घटनाओं के लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव की अपरिहार्यता को मान्यता देने का एक प्रशंसनीय उदाहरण है।

- The government order says many parts of **Tamil Nadu** have consistently recorded temperatures above **40° C** during the **summer of 2024**, acknowledging that **heatwaves** are emerging as a **threat** affecting the **elderly, children**, and those with **prior illnesses**. सरकार के आदेश में कहा गया है कि तमिलनाडु के कई हिस्सों ने 2024 की गर्मियों में लगातार 40° C से अधिक तापमान दर्ज किया है, यह स्वीकार करते हुए कि हीटवेव बुजुर्गों, बच्चों, पूर्व बीमारियों वाले लोगों के दिन-प्रतिदिन के जीवन को प्रभावित कर रही हैं।

- Tamil Nadu's **vulnerability** is exacerbated by its **long coastline** where **humidity** goes up during summer, giving rise to the peculiar **wet-bulb temperature phenomenon**. तमिलनाडु की संवेदनशीलता उसकी लंबी समुद्र तट रेखा से बढ़ जाती है जहाँ गर्मियों में आर्द्रता बढ़ जाती है, जो गीली बल्ब तापमान घटना का कारण बनती है।

- The **World Economic Forum** has warned that **global warming** is on track to reach a '**wet-bulb temperature**' level of **35° C**, where **humans** can no longer **regulate safe body temperature** through **sweating**.

विश्व आर्थिक मंच ने चेतावनी दी है कि वैश्विक तापमान बढ़ने की गति 35° C के 'गीले बल्ब तापमान' स्तर तक पहुँचने की है, जहाँ मानव पसीने के माध्यम से सुरक्षित शरीर के तापमान को नियंत्रित नहीं कर सकते।**

- While mechanisms must be **alerted to mitigate the effects of global warming** at the **local, regional, and national levels**, it is also **wise to prepare** during the interim. स्थानीय, क्षेत्रीय और राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर वैश्विक तापमान बढ़ने के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए तंत्र को सजग रहना चाहिए, तब अंतरिम में तैयारी करना भी बुद्धिमानी है।

- The **Tamil Nadu government's** move to **provide relief** to the **victims of heatwave** under the **State Disaster Response Fund** will feature a **range of activities**, including **ex gratia payment to families of those who died of heat-related conditions**; provision for **medical care, drinking water**, including **ORS packets**, and **rescheduling working hours**, will make the **State** and its most **vulnerable** at least **prepared for the worst**. तमिलनाडु सरकार का हीटवेव के पीड़ितों को राज्य आपदा प्रतिक्रिया कोष के तहत राहत प्रदान करने का कदम एक व्यापक गतिविधियों की श्रृंखला को शामिल करेगा, जिसमें हीट से संबंधित स्थितियों में मरे हुए लोगों के परिवारों को **ex gratia** भुगतान; चिकित्सा देखभाल, पेयजल, जिसमें





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

ORS पैकेट की आपूर्ति और कार्य घंटों का पुनर्निर्धारण शामिल है, राज्य और इसके सबसे कमजोर लोगों को सबसे खराब स्थिति के लिए तैयार करेगा।

- Other **States** would do well to be **inspired** by this **model**.
अन्य राज्यों को इस मॉडल से प्रेरणा लेना अच्छा होगा।

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Website: patrioticias.in
Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>



The politics of data-based policymaking

How should India approach data collection and statistics for the next five years? Measures and datasets tell the stories of a country's growth and are important to citizens, policymakers, and the international audience. In the last few years, the accuracy and quality of India's statistical systems have been questioned. Economists and policymakers have lamented the "decade without data" since the Census has not been conducted and the release of National Sample Survey (NSS) data faced delays. They have advocated for more independence and neutrality in data collection, interpretation, and release.

Are numbers objective?

However, simply championing values like independence and neutrality overlooks the contextual and political nature of statistics. We need to recognise that the construction of public statistics is informed by political commitments that must be aired and critiqued for good policymaking. Unless the politics are transparent, the statistics will not be as useful as they could be.

Statistics, first and foremost, are attempts at numerical representations of complex social experiences. Choices about what to count are simultaneously choices about what not to count. Consider welfare policies such as the financial inclusion scheme, Jan Dhan Yojana. India broke the Guinness World Record in 2014 for opening the maximum number of bank accounts in a week. At what cost was such speed achieved? A leader of an activist group based in Hyderabad explained that a bank had set up camps in Adivasi villages of Andhra Pradesh, hastily opened accounts for citizens, and left. "Accounts were opened but people did not know details about their accounts, and were never given passbooks," he said. Although direct benefits transfers were being sent to those accounts, they were inaccessible. Cases of



Pariroo Rattan

PhD candidate at Harvard University and a Non-Resident Research Associate at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress. Views expressed are personal

Simply championing values like independence and neutrality overlooks the contextual and political nature of statistics

the poor being unable to access their bank accounts and welfare subsidies due to illiteracy, documentation issues, and harassment are plentiful despite the statistical narrative that numbers of bank accounts are rising. In another example, the kilogrammes of foodgrains distributed under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana are widely shown across billboards. The Global Hunger Report of 2023 records that India's ranking had slipped from 55th in 2014 to 111th in 2023. Fixating on the number of bank accounts and kilogrammes of foodgrains distributed as metrics of state success can conceal the darker story of limited banking access and poor nutrition.

Second, meeting statistical targets should not be confused with the achievement of development objectives. This is an issue across multilateral institutions, but India must take a more nuanced approach. Consider the eShram unorganised workers' database, set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment after the COVID-19 pandemic to collect data on migrant workers. A Common Service Centre operative in Gurugram explained how the database relies on self-declaration, and that many who were not eligible for the workers' database, such as housewives, teachers, and farmers, had signed up in the hope of future benefits. While eShram has rapidly met enrolment targets and been extolled as successful, the emphasis on data obscures whether eShram is reaching its target population. Documenting anecdotes, conducting audits, and collecting citizens' experiential feedback is crucial to making good development policy.

Third, scrutinising data is tougher with the digitisation of governance. For most of the 20th century, socioeconomic data-gathering in India was the work of public institutions including the National Sample Survey Organisation and the Central Statistical Office, which

had robust details on research methods. With Aadhaar, the state has more data on citizens than ever before. Despite the possibility of anonymizing and aggregating for privacy protection, it has become more difficult for citizens and researchers to access this data. Most eGovernance data is stored in State Data Centres accessed by government divisions and their private partners, and data is irregularly published online. On the flipside, data collected through payment apps such as Google Pay and PhonePe are used by FinTech start-ups to create financial products to sell to citizens. Data collected on citizens is not available to citizens or journalists to hold institutions accountable; only government and private actors have access.

Strengthening data systems

What are the implications of this politics of data, and how can we strengthen our data systems? Without denigrating quantification, we can create data systems to be more citizen-serving. A first step involves changing our orientation from asking whether we have the "right" data or technical methods to asking what kind of data are most useful for citizens' well-being. For instance, while the statistics on the number of newly opened bank accounts are likely to be correct, it may be useful to measure the proportion of poor who access their bank accounts.

Second, digitally collected data should not exclusively be designed for the use of the government and start-ups. It is vital to set up porous institutional structures that give civil society a voice in designing data infrastructure.

Third, policymakers need to expand their views of data collection from a mere technical exercise to a social and political undertaking that would benefit from the inputs of social scientists, citizens and activists. Ultimately, statistics ought to serve citizens; citizens should not serve the achievement of statistical targets.



The politics of data-based policymaking डेटा-आधारित नीति निर्माण की राजनीति

How should India approach data collection and statistics for the next five years? Measures and datasets tell the stories of a country's growth and are important to citizens, policymakers, and the international audience.

अगले पाँच वर्षों के लिए भारत को डेटा संग्रह और आंकड़ों के प्रति किस तरह से दृष्टिकोण अपनाना चाहिए? मापदंड और डेटासेट एक देश की विकास की कहानी बताते हैं और नागरिकों, नीति निर्माताओं और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दर्शकों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- In recent years, the **accuracy** and **quality** of India's **statistical systems** have been questioned. Economists and policymakers have lamented the "**decade without data**" due to the lack of **Census** data and delays in **National Sample Survey (NSS)** releases. They have advocated for more **independence** and **neutrality** in **data collection, interpretation, and release.**

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में भारत की सांख्यिकीय प्रणालियों की सटीकता और गुणवत्ता पर सवाल उठाए गए हैं। अर्थशास्त्रियों और नीति निर्माताओं ने "डेटा के बिना दशक" पर अफसोस जताया है क्योंकि जनगणना नहीं हुई और राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण (NSS) डेटा की रिलीज़ में देरी हुई। उन्होंने डेटा संग्रह, व्याख्या, और रिलीज़ में अधिक स्वतंत्रता और तटस्थता की वकालत की है।

Are numbers objective?

क्या आंकड़े वस्तुनिष्ठ होते हैं?

- Simply championing values like **independence** and **neutrality** overlooks the **contextual** and **political nature** of **statistics.**
- Recognizing that the construction of public **statistics** is informed by **political commitments** is essential for **good policymaking.**

स्वतंत्रता और तटस्थता जैसे मूल्यों का समर्थन करना सांख्यिकी के प्रासंगिक और राजनीतिक स्वभाव को अनदेखा कर देता है। अच्छी नीति निर्माण के लिए यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि सार्वजनिक सांख्यिकी का निर्माण राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धताओं से प्रेरित होता है।

- Statistics are **numerical representations** of complex **social experiences.** Decisions on what to count also imply decisions on what **not to count.** सांख्यिकी जटिल सामाजिक अनुभवों के संख्यात्मक प्रतिनिधित्व हैं। क्या गिनना है, यह निर्णय भी यह इंगित करता है कि क्या नहीं गिनना है।
- Consider welfare policies such as the **Jan Dhan Yojana.** India set a **Guinness World Record** in **2014** for opening the maximum number of **bank accounts** in a week.





जन धन योजना जैसी कल्याण नीतियों पर विचार करें। भारत ने 2014 में एक सप्ताह में अधिकतम बैंक खाते खोलने के लिए गिनीज़ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड स्थापित किया।

- A Hyderabad-based activist mentioned how banks had hastily set up accounts in Adivasi villages in Andhra Pradesh without providing passbooks or account details, making direct benefit transfers inaccessible to account holders.
एक हैदराबाद स्थित कार्यकर्ता ने बताया कि कैसे बैंकों ने आंध्र प्रदेश के आदिवासी गाँवों में जल्दबाजी में खाते खोले, बिना पासबुक या खाता विवरण दिए, जिससे प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण खाताधारकों के लिए अप्राप्य हो गए।
- Cases of the poor being unable to access their bank accounts due to illiteracy, documentation issues, and harassment are abundant, despite rising statistics on bank accounts.
गरीबों के बैंक खातों तक पहुंच न पाने के मामले अशिक्षा, दस्तावेज़ीकरण समस्याओं, और उत्पीड़न के कारण बढ़ते बैंक खातों के आंकड़ों के बावजूद सामान्य हैं।
- Another example: while kilograms of food grains distributed under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana are displayed on billboards, the Global Hunger Report of 2023 ranked India 111th, a decline from 55th in 2014.
एक और उदाहरण: जबकि प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण योजना के तहत वितरित अनाज के किलोग्राम बिलबोर्ड्स पर प्रदर्शित हैं, 2023 के वैश्विक भूख रिपोर्ट में भारत की रैंक 111वीं आई, जो 2014 की 55वीं रैंक से गिरावट है।

Meeting statistical targets vs. development objectives

सांख्यिकीय लक्ष्यों की पूर्ति बनाम विकासात्मक उद्देश्य

- Meeting statistical targets should not be confused with achieving development objectives. For instance, the eShram unorganised workers' database relies on self-declaration, leading some ineligible individuals to register for potential future benefits.
सांख्यिकीय लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करना विकासात्मक उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति नहीं माना जाना चाहिए। उदाहरण के लिए, ई-श्रम असंगठित श्रमिकों का डेटाबेस स्वघोषणा पर निर्भर करता है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप कुछ अयोग्य व्यक्तियों ने संभावित भविष्य के लाभों के लिए पंजीकरण किया।
- While eShram rapidly met enrolment targets and was praised, focusing on data alone obscures whether it reached its target population.
जबकि ई-श्रम ने नामांकन लक्ष्यों को तेजी से पूरा किया और प्रशंसा प्राप्त की, केवल डेटा पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने से यह अस्पष्ट हो जाता है कि क्या यह अपनी लक्षित जनसंख्या तक पहुंचा।
- Documenting anecdotes, conducting audits, and gathering citizen feedback are crucial for creating effective development policy.
किस्सों का दस्तावेज़ीकरण, ऑडिट करना, और नागरिकों की प्रतिक्रिया एकत्र करना प्रभावी विकास नीति बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Third, scrutinising data is tougher with the digitisation of governance. तीसरा, डेटा की जांच-परख शासन के डिजिटलीकरण के साथ कठिन हो गई है।
- For most of the 20th century, socioeconomic data-gathering in India was the work of public institutions, including the National Sample Survey Organisation and the Central Statistical Office, which had robust details on research methods.





- अधिकांश **20वीं सदी** तक, भारत में सामाजिक-आर्थिक डेटा-संग्रहण का कार्य सार्वजनिक संस्थानों, जैसे कि **राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण संगठन** और **केंद्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय**, द्वारा किया जाता था, जिनके पास शोध पद्धतियों पर ठोस जानकारी थी।
- With **Aadhaar**, the state has more data on citizens than ever before. Despite the possibility of anonymizing and aggregating for privacy protection, it has become more difficult for citizens and researchers to access this data.
- **आधार** के साथ, राज्य के पास नागरिकों का पहले से अधिक डेटा है। गोपनीयता सुरक्षा के लिए डेटा को गुमनाम बनाने और एकत्र करने की संभावना के बावजूद, नागरिकों और शोधकर्ताओं के लिए इस डेटा तक पहुंच बनाना और कठिन हो गया है।
- Most eGovernance data is stored in **State Data Centres** accessed by government divisions and their private partners, and data is irregularly published online.
- अधिकांश ई-शासन डेटा **राज्य डेटा केंद्रों** में संग्रहीत किया जाता है, जिसे सरकारी विभागों और उनके निजी भागीदारों द्वारा एक्सेस किया जाता है, और डेटा अनियमित रूप से ऑनलाइन प्रकाशित होता है।
- On the flip side, data collected through payment apps such as **Google Pay** and **PhonePe** are used by FinTech start-ups to create financial products to sell to citizens.
- दूसरी ओर, **गूगल पे** और **फोनपे** जैसे पेमेंट ऐप्स के माध्यम से एकत्रित डेटा का उपयोग फिनटेक स्टार्टअप्स द्वारा वित्तीय उत्पादों को बनाने और नागरिकों को बेचने के लिए किया जाता है।
- Data collected on citizens is not available to citizens or journalists to hold institutions accountable; only government and private actors have access.
- नागरिकों पर एकत्रित डेटा नागरिकों या पत्रकारों के लिए संस्थानों को जवाबदेह ठहराने हेतु उपलब्ध नहीं है; केवल सरकारी और निजी संस्थाओं को ही इसका एक्सेस है।

Strengthening data systems डेटा प्रणालियों को सुदृढ़ बनाना

- What are the implications of this politics of data, and how can we strengthen our data systems?
- डेटा की इस **राजनीति** के क्या प्रभाव हैं, और हम अपनी डेटा प्रणालियों को कैसे सुदृढ़ बना सकते हैं?
- Without denigrating **quantification**, we can create data systems to be more citizen-serving.
- मात्रात्मककरण का अपमान किए बिना, हम डेटा प्रणालियों को नागरिक सेवा के लिए अधिक अनुकूल बना सकते हैं।
- A first step involves changing our orientation from asking whether we have the "right" data or technical methods to asking what kind of data are most useful for **citizens' well-being**.
- पहला कदम यह है कि हम यह पूछने की बजाय कि क्या हमारे पास "सही" डेटा या तकनीकी विधियां हैं, यह पूछें कि नागरिकों की भलाई के लिए किस प्रकार का डेटा सबसे उपयोगी है।
- For instance, while the statistics on the number of newly opened **bank accounts** are likely to be correct, it may be useful to measure the proportion of **poor** who access their bank accounts.
- उदाहरण के लिए, जबकि **नए खुले बैंक खातों** की संख्या पर सांख्यिकी सही हो सकती है, **गरीबों** के बैंक खातों तक पहुंचने का अनुपात मापना अधिक उपयोगी हो सकता है।
- Second, digitally collected data should not exclusively be designed for the use of the **government** and **start-ups**.





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

- दूसरा, डिजिटल रूप से एकत्रित डेटा को केवल **सरकार** और **स्टार्टअप्स** के उपयोग के लिए डिज़ाइन नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।
- It is vital to set up **porous institutional structures** that give civil society a voice in designing data infrastructure.
- यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि डेटा अवसंरचना के डिज़ाइन में नागरिक समाज को आवाज देने के लिए **पारगम्य संस्थागत संरचनाएं** स्थापित की जाएं।
- Third, policymakers need to expand their views of data collection from a mere **technical exercise** to a **social and political undertaking** that would benefit from the inputs of social scientists, citizens, and activists.
- तीसरा, नीति निर्माताओं को डेटा संग्रह को मात्र एक **तकनीकी अभ्यास** से **सामाजिक और राजनीतिक पहल** में विस्तारित करने की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें सामाजिक वैज्ञानिकों, नागरिकों और कार्यकर्ताओं के इनपुट से लाभ हो सकता है।
- Ultimately, **statistics** ought to serve citizens; citizens should not serve the achievement of **statistical targets**.
- अंततः, **सांख्यिकी** का उद्देश्य नागरिकों की सेवा करना होना चाहिए; नागरिकों को **सांख्यिकीय लक्ष्यों** की प्राप्ति के लिए नहीं उपयोग करना चाहिए।

Website: patrioticias.in
Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>



Why is there an upward rally in gold prices?

Why is gold considered a safety cushion by central banks? When does demand for the yellow metal peak in India? Why does the World Gold Council expect an increased demand for gold from rural areas? What factors determine gold prices?

EXPLAINER

Saptarnno Ghosh

The story so far:

Mired amidst geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, spot price of gold scaled a record high of \$2,758.37 for an ounce on October 23. At the time of writing, the yellow metal was priced at \$2,731.45/ounce having marginally corrected course from the record high. In India, gold was mirroring the upward trajectory at ₹7,513.37/gram, 40% higher than ₹5,354.20/gram a year ago. Imperative to note, the demand for the yellow metal has historically been observed to peak in lieu of the festive season, thus, potentially translating to a positive effect on its prices.

What determines the price of gold?

Central to the assessment are two currents: prevailing investor appetite (compared to other assets such as bonds) but more importantly, the yellow metal's safe haven characteristic. Gold has lower co-relation with other asset classes and, therefore, provides a safety cushion during periods of geopolitical stress and prevailing economic uncertainty and/or downturn in markets.

Further, prices of gold are suggested to hold an inverse relationship with interest rates. That is, when interest rates are tightened gold becomes less attractive to investors as they do not offer any yield – even in tightened conditions. Conversely, lower interest rates coupled by a weaker dollar can prompt investors to also opt for the safety bullion cushion. However, the relationship is not airtight and has been observed to prompt exceptions owing to inflationary conditions and/or geopolitical tensions, among other factors.

The notion about gold being a safety cushion is best reflected in the purchase of the yellow metal by central banks to hedge against global uncertainties, other than diversifying their forex reserves. For



REUTERS

perspective, as per the World Gold Council (WGC), central banks made net purchases of 8 tonnes in August. Leading buyers were the National Bank of Poland, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey followed by the RBI.

Broadly, gold prices are determined by forces of supply and demand. Imperative to note here, that gold is finite. The gestation period from mining to production cannot effectively respond to market dynamics. According to WGC, it often takes decades to move from discovery of a mine to production.

What have we observed about demand dynamics in India?

Demand for the yellow metal traditionally peaks in the second half of the year with the arrival of the festive season and the onset of the wedding season. The buffer

period in between (generally, mid-September to the onset of October) is considered inauspicious for such purchases as per the Hindu calendar. According to the WGC's October update, the above stipulated buffer period further marred by high prices have kept consumers away from buying the precious metal. However, it observed from market reports, about a resurgence in gold buying with the festive season and a demand largely driven by wedding purchases. With respect to prices, the monthly report held that the price increased in September primarily because of a decline in the U.S. dollar with the Fed's rate cut. This coupled with geopolitical tensions helped the rally. Imperative to note that globally the prices of gold are referenced in U.S. dollars. Thus, the decline in dollar spurs demand

for the yellow metal seeking safe haven and hedging.

What happens from here?

Saiyam Mehra, Chairman at the All-India Gems and Jewellery Domestic Council told *The Hindu* that prices of the yellow metal may further continue their upward trajectory. According to Mr. Mehra, the international market rates may come down between early to mid-November by about \$50 to approximately \$2,650/ounce. However, he observes that the rates could again go up between \$2,800 and \$3,000 in the next year – about ₹92,000 to ₹96,000. The latter being 20% higher compared to the present prices. "(At present) Even after the rates have increased, there is a good footfall in the market but not what we saw last year. The volume has decreased 10% but the value has increased about 15%," Mr. Mehra informed. Separately, he further anticipated 20% sales of bullion and 80% of jewellery during the important Dhanteras season.

Kavita Chacko, Research Head (India) at the WGC further observed that investment demand has been rather strong. The investment interest is being supported by strong price performance of the yellow metal. Furthermore, WGC also expects an increased demand for the yellow metal from rural areas emanating from "improvements in overall consumption". It observes, "Favourable monsoons and higher crop sowing this year are anticipated to boost rural incomes, potentially leading to higher gold purchases."

Reflecting on the domestic economic currents and their impact on prices, Ms. Chacko observed that the reduction in gold import duties in July has "significantly boosted demand". Further, she told *The Hindu*, "Strong monsoons have raised rural consumers' spending power, which has raised demand in both rural and tier II and III cities. Gold demand is typically high throughout the festive and wedding seasons, which we are currently in."

THE GIST

▼ Mired amidst geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, spot price of gold scaled a record high of \$2,758.37 for an ounce on October 23.

▼ The notion about gold being a safety cushion is best reflected in the purchase of the yellow metal by central banks to hedge against global uncertainties, other than diversifying their forex reserves. For perspective, as per the World Gold Council, central banks made net purchases of 8 tonnes in August.

▼ Demand for the yellow metal traditionally peaks in the second half of the year with the arrival of the festive season and the onset of the wedding season. The buffer period in between (mid-September to the onset of October) is considered inauspicious for such purchases as per the Hindu calendar.

Upward Rally in Gold Prices

सोने की कीमतों में वृद्धि

Mired amidst geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, spot price of gold scaled a record high of \$2,758.37 for an ounce on October 23.





भू-राजनीतिक तनाव और आर्थिक अनिश्चितता के बीच, सोने की स्पॉट कीमत ने 23 अक्टूबर को एक औंस के लिए \$2,758.37 का रिकॉर्ड उच्च स्तर प्राप्त किया।

- At the time of writing, the yellow metal was priced at **\$2,731.45/ounce**, having marginally corrected course from the record high.

लेखन के समय, पीले धातु की कीमत **\$2,731.45/औंस** थी, जो रिकॉर्ड उच्च से थोड़ी सी घट गई थी।

- In India, gold was mirroring the upward trajectory at **₹7,513.37/gram**,

40% higher than **₹5,354.20/gram** a year ago.

भारत में, सोना ऊपर की ओर के रुख को दर्शाते हुए **₹7,513.37/ग्राम** पर था, जो पिछले वर्ष **₹5,354.20/ग्राम** से **40%** अधिक है।

- Imperative to note, the demand for the yellow metal has historically been observed to peak in lieu of the festive season, thus, potentially translating to a positive effect on its prices.

यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि पीले धातु की मांग ऐतिहासिक रूप से त्यौहारी सीजन में अपने चरम पर देखी गई है, जिससे इसकी कीमतों पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

Why is Gold Considered a Safety Cushion by Central Banks?

सोने को केंद्रीय बैंकों द्वारा सुरक्षा कुशन क्यों माना जाता है?

- Central to the assessment are two currents: prevailing investor appetite (compared to other assets such as bonds) but more importantly, the yellow metal's **safe haven** characteristic.

मूल्यांकन के लिए दो मुख्य धारा हैं: अन्य संपत्तियों जैसे बांड की तुलना में निवेशकों की वर्तमान भूख, लेकिन सबसे महत्वपूर्ण, पीले धातु की **सुरक्षित आश्रय** विशेषता।

- Gold has lower co-relation with other asset classes and, therefore, provides a **safety cushion** during periods of geopolitical stress and prevailing economic uncertainty and/or downturn in markets.

सोने का अन्य संपत्ति वर्गों के साथ कम सह-संबंध होता है और, इस प्रकार, यह भू-राजनीतिक तनाव और मौजूदा आर्थिक अनिश्चितता और/या बाजारों में मंदी के दौरान **सुरक्षा कुशन** प्रदान करता है।

- The notion about gold being a safety cushion is best reflected in the purchase of the yellow metal by central banks to hedge against global uncertainties, other than diversifying their forex reserves.**





सोने को सुरक्षा कुशन के रूप में मानने का विचार केंद्रीय बैंकों द्वारा पीले धातु की खरीद में सबसे अच्छी तरह से परिलक्षित होता है, जो वैश्विक अनिश्चितताओं के खिलाफ हेज करने के लिए होती है, न कि केवल अपने **विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार** में विविधता लाने के लिए।

- For perspective, as per the **World Gold Council (WGC)**, central banks made net purchases of **8 tonnes** in **August**.
परिप्रेक्ष्य के लिए, **विश्व स्वर्ण परिषद (WGC)** के अनुसार, केंद्रीय बैंकों ने **अगस्त** में **8 टन** की शुद्ध खरीद की।
- Leading buyers were the **National Bank of Poland, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey**, followed by the **RBI**.
मुख्य खरीदार थे **पोलैंड का राष्ट्रीय बैंक, तुर्की गणराज्य का केंद्रीय बैंक**, और उसके बाद **आरबीआई**।

When Does Demand for the Yellow Metal Peak in India?

भारत में पीले धातु की मांग कब बढ़ती है?

- The demand for the yellow metal has historically been observed to peak in lieu of the festive season, thus, potentially translating to a positive effect on its prices.
यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि पीले धातु की मांग ऐतिहासिक रूप से त्यौहारी सीजन में अपने चरम पर देखी गई है, जिससे इसकी कीमतों पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

What Factors Determine Gold Prices?

सोने की कीमतों को निर्धारित करने वाले कारक क्या हैं?

- Broadly, gold prices are determined by forces of **supply and demand**.
वास्तव में, सोने की कीमतें **आपूर्ति और मांग** के बलों द्वारा निर्धारित होती हैं।
- Imperative to note here, that gold is **finite**.
यहाँ ध्यान देने योग्य है कि सोना **सीमित** है।
- The gestation period from mining to production cannot effectively respond to market dynamics.
खनन से उत्पादन तक का गर्भाधान काल बाजार की गतिशीलता का प्रभावी ढंग से उत्तर नहीं दे सकता।
- According to WGC, it often takes **decades** to move from discovery of a mine to production.
WGC के अनुसार, एक खदान की खोज से उत्पादन तक पहुंचने में अक्सर **दशकों** लगते हैं।

Demand Dynamics in India

भारत में मांग की गतिशीलता

- Demand for the yellow metal traditionally peaks in the **second half of the year** with the arrival of the **festive season** and the onset of the **wedding season**.



पीले धातु की मांग परंपरागत रूप से साल के दूसरे भाग में त्यौहारी सीजन और शादी के सीजन की शुरुआत के साथ अपने उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंच जाती है।

- The buffer period in between (generally, **mid-September** to the onset of **October**) is considered inauspicious for such purchases as per the Hindu calendar. इसके बीच का बफर पीरियड (आमतौर पर, **मध्य-सितंबर** से लेकर **अक्टूबर** की शुरुआत तक) हिंदू कैलेंडर के अनुसार ऐसी खरीदारी के लिए अशुभ माना जाता है।
- According to the **WGC's October update**, the above stipulated buffer period further marred by high prices have kept consumers away from buying the precious metal. **WGC के अक्टूबर अपडेट** के अनुसार, उपरोक्त निर्धारित बफर पीरियड, जो उच्च कीमतों से और अधिक प्रभावित हुआ है, उपभोक्ताओं को कीमती धातु खरीदने से रोक दिया है।
- However, it was observed from market reports about a resurgence in gold buying with the festive season and a demand largely driven by **wedding purchases**. हालांकि, बाजार रिपोर्टों से यह देखा गया कि त्यौहारी सीजन के साथ सोने की खरीदारी में फिर से वृद्धि हुई है और मांग मुख्य रूप से **शादी की खरीदारी** द्वारा प्रेरित है।
- With respect to prices, the monthly report held that the price increased in **September** primarily because of a decline in the **U.S. dollar** with the Fed's rate cut. कीमतों के संदर्भ में, मासिक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि **सितंबर** में कीमतों में वृद्धि मुख्य रूप से **अमेरिकी डॉलर** में कमी और फेड की ब्याज दर में कटौती के कारण हुई।
- This coupled with geopolitical tensions helped the rally. इसके साथ ही भू-राजनीतिक तनाव ने भी इस वृद्धि में मदद की।
- Imperative to note that globally the prices of gold are referenced in **U.S. dollars**. यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर सोने की कीमतें **अमेरिकी डॉलर** में संदर्भित होती हैं।
- Thus, the decline in dollar spurs demand for the yellow metal seeking **safe haven** and **hedging**. इस प्रकार, डॉलर में गिरावट पीले धातु की मांग को **सुरक्षित आश्रय** और **हिजिंग** की तलाश में प्रोत्साहित करती है।

What Happens from Here?

आगे क्या होगा?

- Saiyam Mehra, Chairman at the **All-India Gems and Jewellery Domestic Council** told *The Hindu* that prices of the yellow metal may further continue their upward trajectory. **ऑल इंडिया ज्वेल्स और गहनों के घरेलू परिषद** के अध्यक्ष सैयम मेहरा ने *द हिंदू* को बताया कि पीले धातु की कीमतें आगे भी अपने उच्चतम स्तर पर जारी रह सकती हैं।
- According to Mr. Mehra, the international market rates may come down between early to mid-**November** by about **\$50** to approximately **\$2,650/ounce**. श्री मेहरा के अनुसार, अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार की दरें **नवंबर** की शुरुआत से मध्य के बीच लगभग **\$50** की कमी के साथ **\$2,650/औंस** के करीब आ सकती हैं।
- However, he observes that the rates could again go up between **\$2,800** and **\$3,000** in the next year — about **₹92,000 to ₹96,000**. हालांकि, वह यह देखते हैं कि दरें अगले वर्ष **\$2,800** और **\$3,000** के बीच फिर से बढ़ सकती हैं — लगभग **₹92,000 से ₹96,000**।





- The latter being **20%** higher compared to the present prices.
अंतिम कीमत वर्तमान कीमतों की तुलना में **20%** अधिक होगी।
- "(At present) Even after the rates have increased, there is a good footfall in the market but not what we saw last year.
"(वर्तमान में) दरों में वृद्धि के बावजूद, बाजार में अच्छी भीड़ है लेकिन जो हम पिछले वर्ष देख चुके थे, वह नहीं है।
- The volume has decreased **10%** but the value has increased about ****15%**," Mr. Mehra informed.
मात्रा में **10%** की कमी आई है लेकिन मूल्य में लगभग **15%** की वृद्धि हुई है," श्री मेहरा ने बताया।
- Separately, he further anticipated **20%** sales of bullion and **80%** of jewellery during the important **Dhanteras season**.
अलग से, उन्होंने महत्वपूर्ण **धनतेरस सीजन** के दौरान **20%** बुलेटिन और **80%** आभूषण की बिक्री की भविष्यवाणी की।

Investment Demand Dynamics

निवेश की मांग की गतिशीलता

- Kavita Chacko, Research Head (India) at the **WGC** further observed that **investment demand** has been rather strong.
WGC की अनुसंधान प्रमुख (भारत) कविता चकको ने आगे देखा कि **निवेश की मांग** काफी मजबूत रही है।
- The investment interest is being supported by strong price performance of the yellow metal.
निवेश रुचि को पीले धातु के मजबूत मूल्य प्रदर्शन द्वारा समर्थन प्राप्त हो रहा है।
- Furthermore, **WGC** also expects an increased demand for the yellow metal from rural areas emanating from "improvements in overall consumption."
इसके अलावा, **WGC** ने "समग्र खपत में सुधार" के कारण ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से पीले धातु की मांग में वृद्धि की भी उम्मीद की है।
- It observes, "Favourable monsoons and higher crop sowing this year are anticipated to boost rural incomes, potentially leading to higher gold purchases."
यह देखता है, "अनुकूल मानसून और इस वर्ष उच्च फसल बोआई ग्रामीण आय को बढ़ाने की संभावना है, जिससे सोने की खरीदारी बढ़ सकती है।"

Domestic Economic Currents and Impact

घरेलू आर्थिक धाराएँ और प्रभाव

- Reflecting on the domestic economic currents and their impact on prices, Ms. Chacko observed that the reduction in gold import duties in **July** has "significantly boosted demand."





घरेलू आर्थिक धाराओं और उनके प्रभावों पर विचार करते हुए, श्रीमती चक्को ने देखा कि **जुलाई** में सोने के आयात शुल्क में कमी ने "मांग को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ावा दिया है।"

- Further, she told *The Hindu*, "Strong monsoons have raised rural consumers' spending power, which has raised demand in both rural and tier II and III cities. आगे, उन्होंने द हिंदू को बताया, "मजबूत मानसूनों ने ग्रामीण उपभोक्ताओं की खर्च करने की शक्ति को बढ़ाया है, जिसने ग्रामीण और टियर II और III शहरों में मांग को बढ़ाया है।"
- Gold demand is typically high throughout the festive and wedding seasons, which we are currently in." सोने की मांग आमतौर पर त्यौहारी और शादी के सीज़नों में उच्च होती है, जिसमें हम वर्तमान में हैं।"

How does the U.S. electoral college system work?

How is an electoral college formed? What is its role in the U.S. presidential election? Who are 'faithless' electors? Which is the state with the largest number of electoral votes?

Adithya Narayan

The story so far:

U.S. citizens will cast their ballots on November 5, to choose largely between Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump and Vice-President and Democrat Kamala Harris as their 47th President in the 60th quadrennial elections. The U.S. Constitution mandates that instead of securing the popular vote, the winner is the candidate who clinches the maximum number of electoral college votes. Apart from three instances in the 1800s, results in the recent past such as George Bush Jr.'s victory over Al Gore in 2000 and Mr. Trump's victory over Hilary Clinton (2016) came about in this manner.

What is the electoral college?

The electoral college is an intermediary body or process that chooses the U.S. President. In this system, voters of each

State cast their ballots to choose members (or electors) of the electoral college who then vote to select the President.

The number of electors accorded to each State is in proportion to its population and mirrors its number of members in Congress – both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The system, whose origins can be traced back to the days of slavery, was put in place to ensure States got equal representation in the election process.

What is the process?

In the months leading up to the election, different parties nominate their slate of would-be electors in each State. The slate of the party that wins the popular vote in a State goes on to become electors from that State in the electoral college.

Conventionally, these electors meet in December and go by the will of their citizens to vote for the candidate who won the popular vote in their State. If an

elector votes against the citizens' choice, they are called faithless electors, and some States have provisions to prosecute them. In the presidential elections of 2016, there were seven 'faithless' electors though their votes made no difference to the result. California, with 54 electoral votes, has the maximum number of seats in the electoral college, followed by Texas with 40 and Florida with 30 while States such as North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, and Vermont have the minimum number of 3. Other than two States (Maine and Nebraska), the winner of the popular vote gets all electoral votes of that State (and the District of Columbia); in other words, "Winner takes all". There are 538 electoral votes in the college and a candidate must secure at least 270 votes to become President.

What happens if there is a tie?

According to the U.S. government's website, the situation has transpired only

twice – in 1800 and 1824. On both occasions, the House of Representatives spawned a solution by electing Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams respectively as President.

Given the current composition of States and their voters, such a situation is highly unlikely. However, if a situation were to arise, Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution and the 12th Amendment mandate that the election moves to the House of Representatives where the newly elected 435 members are sworn in and vote on who becomes President.

Notwithstanding the number of representatives accorded to States in the House, each State gets one vote. The winning party in the State gets to poll that vote and the candidate that garners 26 votes is declared President.

The Congress is scheduled to meet in early January to count the votes, and the new President is set to take charge on January 20, 2025, for a term of four years. If the House is unable to come up with a result by then, the Vice-President becomes Acting President, and the House continues to vote until it arrives at a result. Meanwhile, the election for the Vice-President happens in the Senate. In the 100-member strong Senate, each member gets one vote and the majority mark of 51 is desired for a candidate to claim victory. By virtue of being separate elections, this can lead to a situation where the President and Vice-President are from different political parties.

How does the U.S. electoral college system work? अमेरिका के चुनावी कॉलेज प्रणाली कैसे काम करती है?

On November 5, U.S. citizens will cast their ballots to choose largely between Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump



and Vice-President and Democrat Kamala Harris as their 47th President in the 60th quadrennial elections.

5 नवंबर को, अमेरिकी नागरिक अपने मतपत्र डालेंगे, जिससे मुख्यतः रिपब्लिकन उम्मीदवार और पूर्व राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप और उपराष्ट्रपति तथा डेमोक्रेट कमला हैरिस के बीच चुनाव होगा, जो 47वें राष्ट्रपति के रूप में 60वें चतुर्थकालिक चुनाव में होगा।

- The U.S. Constitution mandates that instead of securing the popular vote, the winner is the candidate who clinches the maximum number of **electoral college votes**.
अमेरिकी संविधान यह अनिवार्य करता है कि लोकप्रिय वोट हासिल करने के बजाय, विजेता वह उम्मीदवार है जो चुनावी कॉलेज के अधिकतम मत प्राप्त करता है।
- Apart from three instances in the **1800s**, results in the recent past such as **George Bush Jr.'s** victory over **Al Gore** in **2000** and **Mr. Trump's** victory over **Hilary Clinton** in **2016** came about in this manner.
1800 के दशक में तीन उदाहरणों को छोड़कर, हाल के समय में **जॉर्ज बुश जूनियर** की **2000** में **अल गोर** पर जीत और **मिस्टर ट्रंप** की **2016** में **हिलरी क्लिंटन** पर जीत इसी प्रकार हुई।

What is the electoral college?

चुनावी कॉलेज क्या है?

- The electoral college is an intermediary body or process that chooses the U.S. President.
चुनावी कॉलेज एक मध्यस्थ निकाय या प्रक्रिया है जो अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति का चयन करती है।
- In this system, voters of each State cast their ballots to choose members (or electors) of the electoral college who then vote to select the President.
इस प्रणाली में, प्रत्येक राज्य के मतदाता अपने मतपत्र डालते हैं ताकि चुनावी कॉलेज के सदस्यों (या निर्वाचकों) का चयन किया जा सके, जो फिर राष्ट्रपति का चयन करने के लिए मतदान करते हैं।
- The number of electors accorded to each State is in proportion to its **population** and mirrors its number of members in Congress — both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
प्रत्येक राज्य को दिए गए निर्वाचकों की संख्या उसकी **जनसंख्या** के अनुपात में होती है और यह कांग्रेस में इसके सदस्यों की संख्या को दर्शाती है - प्रतिनिधि सभा और सीनेट दोनों में।
- The system, whose origins can be traced back to the days of **slavery**, was put in place to ensure States got equal representation in the election process.
यह प्रणाली, जिसकी उत्पत्ति **दासता** के दिनों से जुड़ी हुई है, सुनिश्चित करने के लिए स्थापित की गई थी कि राज्यों को चुनाव प्रक्रिया में समान प्रतिनिधित्व मिले।

What is the process?

प्रक्रिया क्या है?





- In the months leading up to the election, different parties nominate their slate of would-be electors in each State.
चुनाव से पहले के महीनों में, विभिन्न पार्टियां प्रत्येक राज्य में संभावित निर्वाचकों की सूची नामांकित करती हैं।
- The slate of the party that wins the **popular vote** in a State goes on to become electors from that State in the electoral college.
राज्य में **लोकप्रिय वोट** जीतने वाली पार्टी की सूची उस राज्य के निर्वाचकों में बदल जाती है जो चुनावी कॉलेज में होंगे।
- Conventionally, these electors meet in **December** and go by the will of their citizens to vote for the candidate who won the popular vote in their State.
परंपरागत रूप से, ये निर्वाचक **दिसंबर** में मिलते हैं और अपने नागरिकों की इच्छानुसार उस उम्मीदवार के लिए मतदान करते हैं जो उनके राज्य में लोकप्रिय वोट जीत चुका है।
- If an elector votes against the citizens' choice, they are called **faithless electors**, and some States have provisions to prosecute them.
यदि कोई निर्वाचक नागरिकों के चुनाव के खिलाफ मतदान करता है, तो उन्हें **निष्क्रिय निर्वाचक** कहा जाता है, और कुछ राज्यों में उनके खिलाफ अभियोजन की प्रावधान है।
- In the presidential elections of **2016**, there were **seven 'faithless' electors** though their votes made no difference to the result.
2016 के राष्ट्रपति चुनावों में सात 'निष्क्रिय' निर्वाचक थे हालांकि उनके वोटों का परिणाम पर कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ा।

Electoral Votes by State

राज्य के अनुसार चुनावी वोट

- **California**, with **54 electoral votes**, has the maximum number of seats in the electoral college, followed by **Texas** with **40** and **Florida** with **30** while States such as **North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, and Vermont** have the minimum number of **3**.
कैलिफोर्निया, जिसके पास **54 चुनावी वोट** हैं, चुनावी कॉलेज में सीटों की अधिकतम संख्या है, इसके बाद **टेक्सास** है जिसके पास **40** और **फ्लोरिडा** के पास **30** हैं जबकि **नॉर्थ डकोटा, साउथ डकोटा, डेलावेयर, और वर्मोंट** जैसे राज्यों के पास न्यूनतम संख्या **3** है।
- **Other than two States (Maine and Nebraska), the winner of the popular vote gets all electoral votes of that State (and the District of Columbia); in other words, "Winner takes all".**
दो राज्यों (**मेन और नेब्रास्का**) को छोड़कर, लोकप्रिय वोट जीतने वाला उम्मीदवार उस राज्य के सभी चुनावी वोट प्राप्त करता है (और **कोलंबिया का जिला**); दूसरे शब्दों में, **"विजेता सब कुछ ले जाता है"**।
- There are **538 electoral votes** in the college and a candidate must secure at least **270 votes** to become President.
कॉलेज में **538 चुनावी वोट** हैं और एक उम्मीदवार को राष्ट्रपति बनने के लिए कम से कम **270 वोट** प्राप्त करना आवश्यक है।

What happens if there is a tie?

यदि टाई होती है तो क्या होता है?





- The situation has only happened twice — in **1800** and **1824**.
यह स्थिति केवल दो बार हुई है — **1800** और **1824** में।
- The House of Representatives elected **Thomas Jefferson** and **John Quincy Adams** as Presidents during those ties.
उन टाई के दौरान, प्रतिनिधि सभा ने **थॉमस जेफरसन** और **जॉन क्विंसी एडम्स** को राष्ट्रपति के रूप में चुना।
- A tie is unlikely given the current political landscape.
वर्तमान राजनीतिक परिदृश्य को देखते हुए, टाई होना असंभव है।
- If a tie occurs, **Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution and the 12th Amendment state that the election goes to the House of Representatives.**
यदि टाई होती है, तो अमेरिकी संविधान का अनुच्छेद **2** और **12वां संशोधन** कहते हैं कि चुनाव प्रतिनिधि सभा में जाएगा।
- The newly elected **435** members will be sworn in and vote for the President.
नए निर्वाचित **435** सदस्यों को शपथ दिलाई जाएगी और वे राष्ट्रपति के लिए मतदान करेंगे।
- **Each State gets one vote, regardless of the number of representatives it has.**
प्रत्येक राज्य को **एक वोट** मिलता है, चाहे उसके पास कितने भी प्रतिनिधि हों।
- The candidate who receives **26 votes** becomes President.
जो उम्मीदवार **26 वोट** प्राप्त करता है, वह राष्ट्रपति बनता है।
- Congress meets in early **January** to count the votes, and the new President takes office on **January 20, 2025.**
कांग्रेस **जनवरी** के प्रारंभ में वोटों की गिनती के लिए मिलती है, और नया राष्ट्रपति **20 जनवरी, 2025** को पदभार ग्रहण करेगा।
- **If the House cannot decide by that date, the Vice-President becomes Acting President, and voting continues.**
यदि उस तारीख तक प्रतिनिधि सभा निर्णय नहीं ले पाती, तो उपराष्ट्रपति कार्यकारी राष्ट्रपति बन जाते हैं, और मतदान जारी रहता है।
- **The election for Vice-President happens in the Senate.**
उपराष्ट्रपति के लिए चुनाव **सेनेट** में होता है।
- **In the 100-member Senate, each member gets one vote, and 51 votes are needed to win.**
100-सदस्य वाले सेनेट में, प्रत्येक सदस्य को **एक वोट** मिलता है, और जीतने के लिए **51 वोट** की आवश्यकता होती है।
- This can result in a President and Vice-President from different political parties.
इससे राष्ट्रपति और उपराष्ट्रपति अलग-अलग राजनीतिक पार्टियों से हो सकते हैं।



Recognising the economic value of unpaid work in India

How valuing women's unpaid contributions can reshape our understanding of economic productivity and foster policies that address inequity and promote the redistribution of gendered unpaid labour

Rebecca Rose Varghese

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daily. This stark contrast underscores the significant burden of unpaid labour borne by women. By addressing these disparities, the authors advocate for policy reforms that acknowledge the economic contributions of unpaid household activities, ultimately seeking more equitable recognition of women's labour in the national economy.

Methodology

The authors use data from the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), covering individuals aged 15 and above from September 2019 to March 2023. The CPHS gathers annual data in three waves – January to April, May to August, and September to December – on employment, health, and financial information from approximately two lakh households and nine lakh individuals each year.

To estimate the economic value of unpaid household work, the authors employ two input-based valuation approaches – Opportunity Cost (GOC) and Replacement Cost (RCM).

Around the world

Globally, there is a growing effort to recognise and value unpaid work, as countries increasingly understand its significant economic contributions. In 2016, the United Nations integrated this focus into its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in SDG 5, which emphasises achieving gender equality and empowering women. Target 5.4 seeks to recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through supportive



No rest: Women farm workers engaged in their job at a paddy field in Thiruvallarsolai village in Tiruchirappalli on September 11. M. MOORTHY

policies and shared household responsibilities, particularly in low and middle-income countries by 2030. Similarly, a study by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC 2022) revealed that unpaid work contributes an estimated 9% to the GDP of APEC member economies, equivalent to \$11 trillion. Contributions vary widely. Indra Hirway, in her paper, "Unpaid Work and the Economy: Linkages and Their Implications (2015)," estimates that unpaid work constitutes between 10% and 60% of GDP in most countries. For instance, while it may form up to 41.3% of Australia's GDP, it may only contribute 5.5% to Thailand's GDP. In South Africa, unpaid work accounted for between 14.6% and 38.1% of GDP in 2010, while in Canada, unpaid household labour was valued between \$516.9 billion and \$860.2 billion in 2019, amounting to 25.2% to 37.2% of Canada's nominal GDP.

Economic value of unpaid work

Unpaid work in India contributes approximately ₹22.7 lakh crore or about 7.5% of the country's GDP, according to a 2023 State Bank of India report. This significant figure underscores the vital role of unpaid labour in the economy, predominantly provided by women who spend about 36 hours per week on such tasks compared to just 16 hours for men. This disparity highlights the gendered nature of household responsibilities and reflects broader societal norms regarding domestic labour. The authors explain that addressing this imbalance could have substantial economic implications. Research indicates that enhancing women's participation in the labour force could boost India's GDP by as much as 27%. For instance, Rajeswari (2021) notes that women account for nearly 88% of unpaid domestic work, while studies by

Choudhary et al. (2009) estimate that women's unpaid labour constitutes approximately 61% of India's GDP. To harness this potential for economic growth, it is vital to create policies that recognise and value unpaid work, encouraging gender equity in the workforce and boosting India's overall productivity. It's also important to explore how the pandemic has affected these inequalities and to develop policies that effectively address these issues.

Wage variations in calculating monetary value

The authors estimate the monetary value of unpaid household activities using two input-based methods: opportunity cost and replacement cost. The opportunity cost method suggests that individuals forgo other activities and their associated monetary benefits while engaged in unpaid household work. This approach calculates the value of unpaid labour by determining the annual average hourly wages for unskilled labour, assumed to be accessible to everyone within a specific region. Due to limited data, the analysis assumes wage rates do not differ by age. Average wages are categorised by various factors to evaluate the time spent on unpaid domestic tasks annually. The authors note that while some assumptions could introduce an upward bias, using unskilled labour wages may also lead to a downward bias in estimating the value of unpaid household labour.

In contrast, the replacement cost method values household tasks as if performed by hired market workers, utilising average wages for comparable occupations instead of the unpaid individuals' wage rates. This approach assumes equal productivity between household members and market substitutes, regardless of age. For example, cooking tasks are valued at the wage rate for kitchen helpers, while caregiving is aligned with wages for nursing or midwifery assistants. Unpaid tasks are matched to similar occupations to assign a value to these tasks annually. The authors explain that while this method could lower market wage rates if labour supply increases, it may also raise demand and wages for domestic help.

Monetarily, the authors found that the value of unpaid household work was ₹49.5 lakh crore based on the gross opportunity cost (GOC) method and ₹65.1 lakh crore using the replacement cost method (RCM) for 2019-20, equating to 24.6% and 32.4% of nominal GDP, respectively. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted these values, with household contributions rising to 27.2% and 42.3% of nominal GDP in 2020-21 for GOC and RCM estimates. Men's contributions to household tasks increased from 10.4% of nominal GDP in 2019-20 to 13.1% in 2020-21, indicating a shift in household labour dynamics, while women's contributions rose to 26.2% during the pandemic.

As the economy recovered in 2021-22 and 2022-23, the overall percentage of GDP attributed to unpaid household work declined, suggesting a redirection of labour toward other sectors. The authors underscore the significant contributions from women, valued at 14.5% (GOC) and 21.5% (RCM) of GDP in 2022-23. However, they caution against directly incorporating these estimates into GDP calculations, highlighting the potential for recognising unpaid labour and its contribution to the country's economy. Through this analysis, the paper calls for future research to refine methodologies, promote equitable recognition and redistribution of care responsibilities, and ultimately enhance women's labour force participation.

The writer is a freelance journalist.

Recognising the economic value of unpaid work in India

भारत में बिना भुगतान के काम का आर्थिक मूल्य मान्यता



The contributions of women through unpaid care work, parenting, and domestic responsibilities are increasingly recognized.

महिलाओं का बिना भुगतान किया गया देखभाल कार्य, पालन-पोषण, और घरेलू ज़िम्मेदारियों के माध्यम से योगदान को बढ़ती पहचान मिल रही है।

- There is a need to include and value these contributions in **national accounts** to highlight their monetary worth.
इन योगदानों को **राष्ट्रीय खातों** में शामिल करने और मूल्यांकन करने की आवश्यकता है ताकि उनका मौद्रिक मूल्य उजागर हो सके।
- The System of National Accounts has included household production in **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** calculations since **1993**, but has excluded unpaid care work.
राष्ट्रीय लेखा प्रणाली ने **ग्रॉस डोमेस्टिक प्रोडक्ट (जीडीपी)** की गणनाओं में **1993** से घरेलू उत्पादन को शामिल किया है, लेकिन बिना भुगतान के देखभाल के काम को बाहर रखा है।
- The **Time Use Survey** is used to quantify unpaid labor, but its infrequent implementation limits comprehensiveness.
समय उपयोग सर्वेक्षण बिना भुगतान वाले श्रम की गणना करने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है, लेकिन इसकी अनियमित कार्यान्वयन व्यापकता को सीमित करता है।
- Authors **Satyananda Sahoo, Kaustav K. Sarkar, and Amit Kumar** measure the monetary value of unpaid household work in India.
लेखक **सत्यनंद साहू, कौस्तव के. सरकार, और अमित कुमार** भारत में बिना भुगतान के घरेलू कार्य का मौद्रिक मूल्य मापते हैं।
- Their objective is to highlight the economic significance of unpaid activities, as **women not in the labor force spend over seven hours daily on unpaid domestic and care work.**
उनका उद्देश्य बिना भुगतान के गतिविधियों के आर्थिक महत्व को उजागर करना है, क्योंकि श्रम बल में नहीं होने वाली महिलाएँ **सात घंटे** से अधिक दैनिक बिना भुगतान के घरेलू और देखभाल कार्य में बिताती हैं।
- Employed women dedicate **5.8 hours** daily to similar tasks, while unemployed men spend less than **four hours** and employed men contribute only **2.7 hours.**
कामकाजी महिलाएँ समान कार्यों में दैनिक **5.8 घंटे** समर्पित करती हैं, जबकि बेरोजगार पुरुष **चार घंटे** से कम समय बिताते हैं और कामकाजी पुरुष केवल **2.7 घंटे** का योगदान देते हैं।
- This highlights the significant burden of unpaid labor on women.
यह महिलाओं पर बिना भुगतान के श्रम का महत्वपूर्ण बोझ उजागर करता है।
- The authors advocate for policy reforms to acknowledge the economic contributions of unpaid household activities.
लेखक बिना भुगतान के घरेलू गतिविधियों के आर्थिक योगदान को स्वीकारने के लिए नीति सुधारों का समर्थन करते हैं।

Methodology

पद्धति





- The authors use data from the **Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS)** by the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**, covering individuals aged **15** and above from **September 2019** to **March 2023**.
लेखक कंज्यूमर पिरामिड्स हाउसहोल्ड सर्वे (सीपीएचएस) से डेटा का उपयोग करते हैं, जो केंद्र सरकार भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था (सीएमआईई) द्वारा 15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक उम्र के व्यक्तियों को सितंबर 2019 से मार्च 2023 तक कवर करता है।
- The CPHS gathers annual data in three waves — **January to April, May to August, and September to December** — on employment, health, and financial information from approximately **two lakh** households and **nine lakh** individuals each year.
सीपीएचएस जनवरी से अप्रैल, मई से अगस्त, और सितंबर से दिसंबर में तीन चरणों में वार्षिक डेटा एकत्र करता है — रोजगार, स्वास्थ्य, और वित्तीय जानकारी से लगभग दो लाख घरों और नौ लाख व्यक्तियों से हर वर्ष।
- To estimate the economic value of unpaid household work, the authors employ **two input-based valuation approaches** — **Opportunity Cost (GOC)** and **Replacement Cost (RCM)**.
बिना भुगतान के घरेलू कार्य के आर्थिक मूल्य का अनुमान लगाने के लिए, लेखक दो इनपुट-आधारित मूल्यांकन दृष्टिकोण का उपयोग करते हैं — अवसर लागत (जीओसी) और प्रतिस्थापन लागत (आरसीएम)।

Around the world

दुनिया भर में

- There is a growing global effort to recognize and value unpaid work due to its significant economic contributions.
इसके महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक योगदान के कारण बिना भुगतान के काम को मान्यता देने और मूल्यांकन करने के लिए वैश्विक प्रयास बढ़ रहा है।
- In **2016**, the United Nations incorporated this focus into its **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially in **SDG 5**, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower women.
2016 में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने इस फोकस को अपने **सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (एसडीजी)** में शामिल किया, विशेष रूप से **एसडीजी 5** में, जिसका उद्देश्य लिंग समानता प्राप्त करना और महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाना है।
- Target **5.4** seeks to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through supportive policies and shared household responsibilities, particularly in low and middle-income countries by **2030**.
लक्ष्य **5.4** बिना भुगतान के देखभाल और घरेलू कार्य को मान्यता देने और मूल्यांकन करने की कोशिश करता है, सहायक नीतियों और साझा घरेलू जिम्मेदारियों के माध्यम से, विशेष रूप से निम्न और मध्य-आय वाले देशों में **2030** तक।
- A study by **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC 2022)** found that unpaid work contributes an estimated **9%** to the GDP of APEC member economies, totaling **\$11 trillion**.
एशिया-प्रशांत आर्थिक सहयोग (एपीईसी 2022) द्वारा एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि बिना भुगतान का काम एपीईसी सदस्य अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के जीडीपी में लगभग **9%** का योगदान देता है, जो **\$11 ट्रिलियन** है।





- Contributions of unpaid work vary, constituting between **10% and 60%** of GDP in many countries.
बिना भुगतान के काम का योगदान भिन्न होता है, जो कई देशों में जीडीपी का **10% से 60%** के बीच होता है।
- For example, unpaid work may account for up to **41.3%** of Australia's GDP and only **5.5%** of Thailand's GDP.
उदाहरण के लिए, बिना भुगतान का काम ऑस्ट्रेलिया के जीडीपी का **41.3%** और थाईलैंड के जीडीपी का केवल **5.5%** हो सकता है।
- In South Africa, unpaid work accounted for between **14.6% and 38.1%** of GDP in **2010**.
दक्षिण अफ्रीका में, बिना भुगतान का काम **2010** में जीडीपी का **14.6% से 38.1%** के बीच था।
- In Canada, unpaid household labour was valued between **\$516.9 billion** and **\$860.2 billion** in **2019**, amounting to **25.2% to 37.2%** of Canada's nominal GDP.
कनाडा में, बिना भुगतान के घरेलू श्रम का मूल्य **2019** में **\$516.9 बिलियन** से **\$860.2 बिलियन** के बीच था, जो कनाडा के नाममात्र जीडीपी का **25.2% से 37.2%** है।

Economic value of unpaid work

अनपेड काम का आर्थिक मूल्य

- **Unpaid work in India contributes about ₹22.7 lakh crore, approximately 7.5% of GDP (2023 SBI report).**
भारत में अनपेड काम का योगदान लगभग **₹22.7 लाख करोड़** है, जो लगभग **7.5% जीडीपी** है (2023 SBI रिपोर्ट)।
- Women perform the majority of unpaid labour, averaging **36 hours per week**, compared to **16 hours for men**.
महिलाएं अनपेड श्रम का अधिकांश भाग करती हैं, **36 घंटे प्रति सप्ताह**, जबकि पुरुष केवल **16 घंटे** करते हैं।
- This shows the **gendered nature** of household responsibilities and societal norms around domestic work.
यह घरेलू जिम्मेदारियों के **लिंग आधारित स्वरूप** और घरेलू श्रम के संबंध में सामाजिक मानदंडों को दर्शाता है।
- Increasing **women's workforce participation** could raise India's GDP by **27%**.
महिलाओं की कार्यबल भागीदारी बढ़ाने से भारत की जीडीपी में **27%** तक वृद्धि हो सकती है।
- **Women account for nearly 88% of unpaid domestic work; studies estimate this work constitutes about 61% of GDP.**
महिलाएं लगभग **88% अनपेड घरेलू काम** में हैं; अध्ययन अनुमानित करते हैं कि यह कार्य लगभग **61% जीडीपी** का गठन करता है।
- Policies must recognize and value unpaid work to promote **gender equity** and enhance productivity.
नीतियों को अनपेड काम को मान्यता और मूल्य देना चाहिए, ताकि **लिंग समानता** को बढ़ावा मिले और उत्पादकता बढ़े।
- The impact of the **pandemic** on these inequalities should be explored to address issues effectively.



इन असमानताओं पर महामारी का प्रभाव जानने की आवश्यकता है ताकि मुद्दों का प्रभावी समाधान किया जा सके।

Wage variations in calculating monetary value मौद्रिक मूल्य की गणना में वेतन भिन्नताएँ

- The monetary value of unpaid household activities is estimated using **opportunity cost and replacement cost** methods.
अनपेड घरेलू गतिविधियों का मौद्रिक मूल्य अवसर लागत और प्रतिस्थापन लागत विधियों का उपयोग करके अनुमानित किया जाता है।
- Opportunity cost estimates the value based on the **annual average hourly wages** for unskilled labour.
अवसर लागत का अनुमान अवसर लागत का उपयोग करके अयोग्य श्रम के लिए वार्षिक औसत प्रति घंटे के वेतन पर आधारित होता है।
- Some assumptions might introduce an **upward bias**; using unskilled wages could also lead to a **downward bias**.
कुछ अनुमान ऊर्ध्वागामी पूर्वाग्रह पेश कर सकते हैं; अयोग्य वेतन का उपयोग निम्न पूर्वाग्रह का कारण बन सकता है।
- The replacement cost method values household tasks as if performed by hired market workers, using **average wages** for similar jobs.
प्रतिस्थापन लागत विधि घरेलू कार्यों को मानती है जैसे कि उन्हें बाजार श्रमिकों द्वारा किया गया हो, समान कार्यों के लिए औसत वेतन का उपयोग करके।
- The **gross opportunity cost (GOC)** method estimated the value of unpaid household work at **₹49.5 lakh crore** for **2019–20**, equating to **24.6% of GDP**.
सकल अवसर लागत (GOC) विधि के अनुसार, अनपेड घरेलू कार्य का मूल्य ₹49.5 लाख करोड़ था 2019–20 के लिए, जो 24.6% जीडीपी के बराबर है।
- The **replacement cost method (RCM)** estimated the value at **₹65.1 lakh crore** for the same period, which is **32.4% of GDP**.
प्रतिस्थापन लागत विधि (RCM) का अनुमान समान अवधि के लिए ₹65.1 लाख करोड़ था, जो 32.4% जीडीपी के बराबर है।
- The pandemic increased household contributions to **27.2% (GOC)** and **42.3% (RCM)** of GDP in **2020–21**.
महामारी ने घरेलू योगदान को 27.2% (GOC) और 42.3% (RCM) तक बढ़ा दिया 2020–21 में।
- Men's contributions increased from **10.4% of GDP** in **2019–20** to **13.1% in 2020–21**.
पुरुषों का योगदान 2019–20 में 10.4% जीडीपी से बढ़कर 2020–21 में 13.1% हो गया।
- Women's contributions rose to **26.2%** during the pandemic.
महिलाओं का योगदान महामारी के दौरान 26.2% तक बढ़ गया।
- In the recovery period of **2021–22** and **2022–23**, the share of unpaid work in GDP declined, indicating a shift in labour towards other sectors.
2021–22 और 2022–23 में पुनः प्राप्ति के दौरान, जीडीपी में अनपेड काम का हिस्सा घट गया, जो अन्य क्षेत्रों की ओर श्रम के पुनर्निर्देशन का संकेत है।
- Women's contributions were valued at **14.5% (GOC)** and **21.5% (RCM)** of GDP in **2022–23**.





महिलाओं का योगदान 2022-23 में 14.5% (GOC) और 21.5% (RCM) जीडीपी के रूप में मूल्यित किया गया।

Opportunity Cost and Replacement Cost

1. Opportunity Cost

Opportunity cost refers to the value of the next best alternative that is foregone when a choice is made. It is a fundamental concept in economics that helps individuals and organizations assess the cost of choosing one option over another.

Hindi: अवसर लागत उस अगले सर्वोत्तम विकल्प का मूल्य है जिसे किसी निर्णय के दौरान त्यागा जाता है। यह अर्थशास्त्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण सिद्धांत है जो व्यक्तियों और संगठनों को एक विकल्प के चयन के लिए लागत का आकलन करने में सहायता करता है।

Historical Background:

- The term "opportunity cost" was first introduced by Austrian economist Friedrich von Wieser in **1914**. This concept highlights the trade-offs involved in making economic decisions.

Hindi: "अवसर लागत" शब्द का पहली बार ऑस्ट्रियन अर्थशास्त्री फ्रेडरिक वॉन वीज़र ने **1914** में परिचय दिया था। यह अवधारणा आर्थिक निर्णयों में शामिल समझौतों को उजागर करती है।

Importance in Economics:

- Opportunity cost helps businesses decide on the most efficient use of resources. For example, if a company has limited resources, it may have to choose between investing in new technology or expanding its workforce. The chosen option will have an opportunity cost in terms of the foregone benefits of the alternative option.

Hindi: अवसर लागत व्यवसायों को संसाधनों के सबसे कुशल उपयोग का निर्णय लेने में सहायता करता है। उदाहरण के लिए, यदि किसी कंपनी के पास सीमित संसाधन हैं, तो उसे नई तकनीक में निवेश या कार्यबल को बढ़ाने के बीच चयन करना पड़ सकता है। चयनित विकल्प में त्यागे गए विकल्प का अवसर लागत शामिल होगी।

Recent Applications and Examples:

- In policy-making, opportunity cost is often used to allocate funds effectively. For instance, if the Government of India chooses to allocate more funds to healthcare, the opportunity cost could be lesser spending on education or infrastructure.

Hindi: नीतिगत निर्णयों में अवसर लागत का अक्सर निधियों को प्रभावी ढंग से आवंटित करने के लिए उपयोग



किया जाता है। उदाहरण के लिए, यदि भारत सरकार स्वास्थ्य सेवा में अधिक धन आवंटित करती है, तो शिक्षा या बुनियादी ढांचे पर कम खर्च करने का अवसर लागत हो सकता है।

2. Replacement Cost

Definition and Basic Concept: Replacement cost is the amount that an entity would need to pay to replace an asset at its current market value. This concept is commonly used in insurance and asset management to estimate the cost of replacing an existing asset.

Hindi: प्रतिस्थापन लागत वह राशि है जो किसी इकाई को वर्तमान बाजार मूल्य पर एक संपत्ति को बदलने के लिए भुगतान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। इस अवधारणा का उपयोग बीमा और संपत्ति प्रबंधन में आमतौर पर मौजूदा संपत्ति को बदलने की लागत का अनुमान लगाने के लिए किया जाता है।

Importance in Insurance and Asset Valuation:

- In insurance, replacement cost is essential for calculating claims. For example, if a business's equipment is damaged, the replacement cost determines how much the insurance company will reimburse for buying a new piece of equipment.

Hindi: बीमा में, प्रतिस्थापन लागत दावों की गणना के लिए आवश्यक है। उदाहरण के लिए, यदि किसी व्यवसाय के उपकरण को नुकसान होता है, तो प्रतिस्थापन लागत यह निर्धारित करती है कि बीमा कंपनी नए उपकरण की खरीद के लिए कितनी राशि वापस करेगी।

Use in Government and Corporate Planning:

- Government projects often calculate replacement costs when updating infrastructure like roads, bridges, and public buildings. This is important for budgeting and planning as it reflects the actual cost of maintaining infrastructure.

Hindi: सरकारी परियोजनाओं में, जैसे कि सड़क, पुल, और सार्वजनिक इमारतों को अद्यतन करने के लिए प्रतिस्थापन लागत का आकलन किया जाता है। यह बजट और योजना के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह बुनियादी ढांचे को बनाए रखने की वास्तविक लागत को दर्शाता है।

Comparison with Opportunity Cost:

- While opportunity cost is about the value of the next best alternative, replacement cost focuses on the cost to recreate or restore an asset. Opportunity cost is used for decision-making and prioritization, whereas replacement cost is primarily used for budgeting and financial assessments.

Hindi: जहां अवसर लागत अगले सर्वोत्तम विकल्प के मूल्य के बारे में है, वहीं प्रतिस्थापन लागत संपत्ति को पुनः निर्माण या पुनर्स्थापित करने की लागत पर केंद्रित है। अवसर लागत का उपयोग निर्णय लेने और प्राथमिकता तय करने के लिए किया जाता है, जबकि प्रतिस्थापन लागत मुख्य रूप से बजट और वित्तीय आकलन के लिए उपयोग की जाती है।





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

Oxymoron: ऑक्सि'मॉरॉन् *noun*: a phrase that combines two words that seem to be the opposite of each other, such as a deafening silence

ऐसा वाक्यांश जिसके दोनों शब्द विपरीत या विरोधी अर्थ वाले हैं जैसे कि a deafening silence; विरोधात्मक

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Website: patrioticias.in
Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

