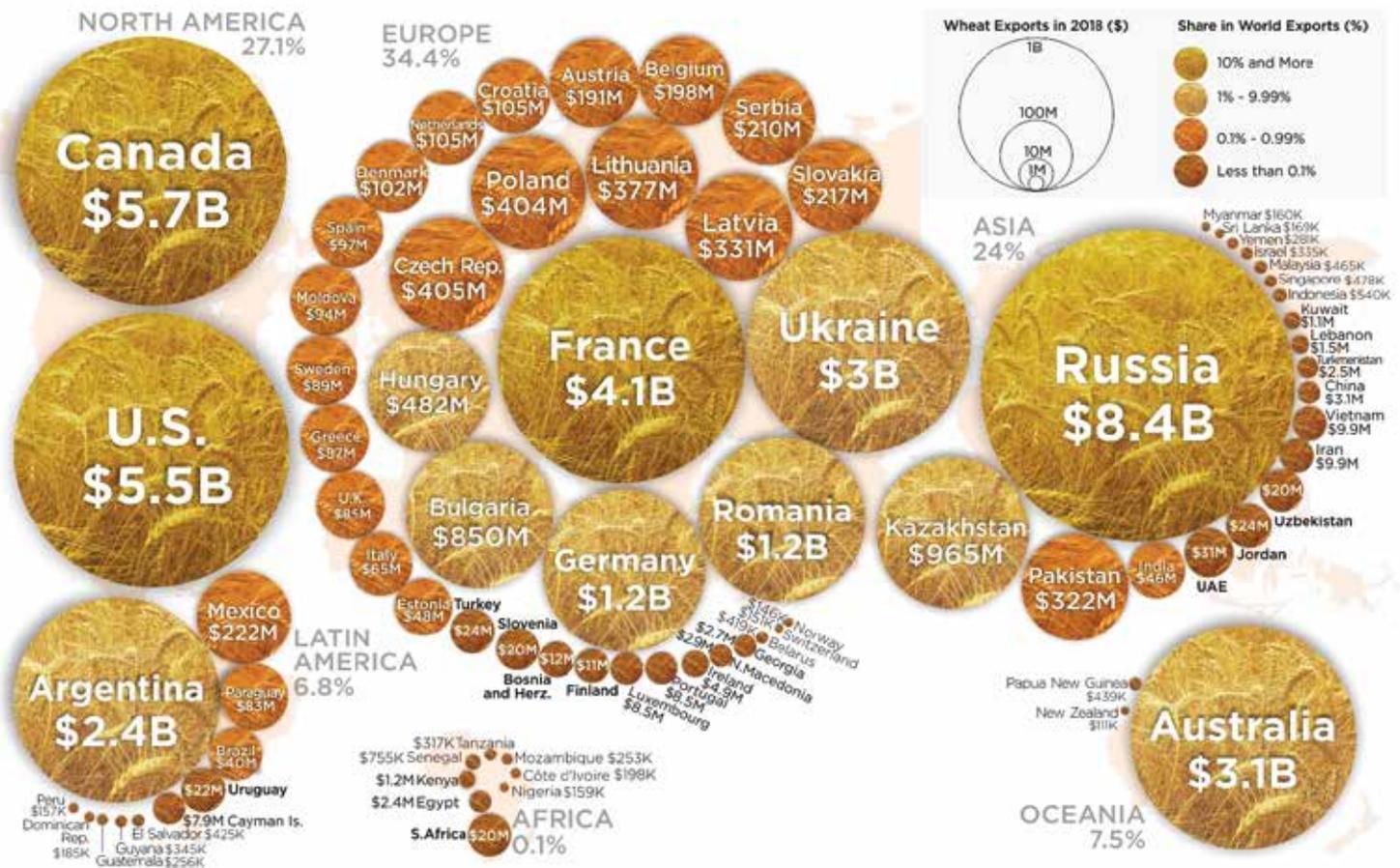




World Map of Wheat Exports



VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

04 - JUNE 2022

FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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New opportunities for e-waste recyclers

Draft rules in public domain for consultation

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Over the next five years, Delhi-NCR-headquartered Attero Recycling, one of India's largest electronic waste management companies, expects to invest close to \$1 billion in expanding their electronic waste recycling facilities.

More than 70% of it is for setting up operations in Europe, the U.S. and Indonesia to recycle lithium-ion batteries premised on the increasing share of electric vehicles in future. Nitin Gupta, co-founder and CEO of the firm, says that while lithium batteries may be the future for the company, the present is hinged on the growing num-



New approach: Electronic waste collected at a scrap shop in Seelampur in Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

ber of e-waste that his factory in Roorkee is processing.

Credit, he says, is due to the mandatory recycling targets set for electronics-goods makers under the Electronic Waste Management Rules, 2016. From 30% of sales in 2018, firms are expected to recycle 70% of sales by 2023.

“Prior to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime, recyclers like us had to pay to procure e-

waste. We extract the precious metals and sell them. The informal recyclers use hazardous methods and therefore were able to do this at a lower cost. Even if their re-

SPECIAL

covery (of metals) was low, their costs were low and so profitable. Now with the EPR regime, it's Original Equipment Manufacturers who are

paying for recycling and a lot more is collected in the formal sector,” said Mr. Gupta.

Last month, the Union Environment Ministry unveiled a set of draft rules that further incentivises registered electronic waste recyclers.

The crucial difference from the 2016 rules is the generation of EPR certificates. The latest e-waste rules are yet to become law and the Environment Ministry has set a 60 day-period for public consultation.

Recyclers on processing a certain quantity of waste would be given a certificate verifying this number by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Electronics goods companies can buy these certificates online from the CPCB to meet their annual targets.

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New rules offer options for e-waste recyclers

Recyclers can also directly contract with a company to recycle a certain quantity of waste and generate certificates that can be accessed from the CPCB.

The challenge is verifiability. How for instance, does the CPCB verify that the certificates indeed guarantee the quantity of e-waste recycled. Prior to the EPR scheme, State pollution control boards were expected to be conducting checks on recycler. In the new regime, said Mr. Gupta, this verification would be done via “software matching.” A recycling company would

be paying a certain amount of Goods and Services Tax annually based on the quantity of precious metal they’ had extracted and sold, said Mr. Gupta, and this would correlate to the amount of e-waste processed. This could be further matched with the certificates bought by a producer firm to meet targets.

Independent experts say that verifying the actual quantity recycled is next to impossible as none of the data – how many electronic goods were sold and how much e-waste is generated and how much recycled – is available in public domain.

Gradual engagement

India should maintain with Afghanistan a policy of engagement rooted in realism

India's decision to send a diplomatic delegation to Kabul to meet with Taliban officials shows a marked difference from the policy New Delhi took in the 1990s when the Sunni Islamist group was in power in Afghanistan. Back then, India had taken a policy of disengagement with Kabul and supported anti-Taliban militias. But this time, Afghanistan's internal situation and the regional dynamics seem to be different, prompting many neighbouring countries to adopt a more constructive line towards the Taliban regime, despite their differences with the group's extremism. India shuttered its embassy in Kabul in August 2021, days before the Taliban takeover, but has maintained a line of communication with them. In September, India's Ambassador to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, met Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, a senior Taliban official, at the Indian Embassy in Doha. In October, Indian officials met the Taliban's Deputy Prime Minister, Abdul Salam Hanafi, in Moscow at a regional conference on Afghanistan. Here, India also joined nine other countries to recognise the "new reality" in Afghanistan. Later, New Delhi sent humanitarian assistance, including wheat, COVID-19 vaccines and winter clothes, to Afghanistan when the country was facing a near-total economic collapse. The meeting J.P. Singh, Joint Secretary, Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had with the Taliban's acting Foreign Minister, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, is a natural next step of this policy of gradual engagement India has taken.

The MEA has said that the visit is only to help coordinate India's humanitarian assistance for the Afghanistan people. While it could be true, the visit would also pave the way for better understanding and engagement given the bad blood in the past. India has three main concerns when it comes to the Taliban's return to Afghanistan. One, India has made investments worth billions of dollars in the past 20 years. It would want to protect these investments and retain the Afghan people's goodwill. Two, when the Taliban were in power in the 1990s, Afghanistan became a safe haven for anti-India terrorist groups. India also saw a sharp rise in violence in Kashmir during the Mujahideen-Taliban reigns of Afghanistan. New Delhi would not like history to repeat itself and would want commitments from the Taliban that they would not offer support for anti-India groups. Three, the Taliban remaining a Pakistani satellite forever is not in India's strategic interest. New Delhi cannot pursue any of these objectives if it does not engage with the Taliban. But, at the same time, India should not hurry in to offer diplomatic recognition to the Taliban's predominantly Pashtun, men-only regime, which has imposed harsh restrictions on women at home. India should work with other regional and global players to push the Taliban to adopt a more inclusive regime, while at the same time maintaining a policy of gradual bilateral engagement rooted in realism.

U.S. and India working to build on gains from trade forum

Both countries seek more market access for goods, services

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

With the reappearance of Indian mangoes in the U.S. market, after the November 2021 U.S. India Trade Policy Forum (TPF) helped overcome a pandemic-induced hiatus in mango trade, officials are looking at what can be achieved in this year's TPF session, likely to be held in November.

For the U.S., exporting ethanol and an associated animal feed ingredient, called DDGS (Distillers' Dried Grains with Solubles) to India in the agricultural goods category is important, a U.S. government official told *The Hindu*.

As far as ethanol trade is concerned, the U.S. official said they were aware that India had "some sensitives" given it has domestic ethanol producers, and that the U.S. could find a way to supplement these sources, to help with renewable energy goals, even if that meant not fully liberalising the market for ethanol. India amended the National Policy on Biofuels in May to advance the 20% ethanol blending target in petrol by five years, to 2025-26. The amended policy also allows the greater use of feedstock for biofuels.

For India, the export of carabeef (water buffalo meat) to the U.S., as well as table grapes are among the agricultural trade priorities currently under discussion, the official said.

The resumption of Indian wild caught shrimp exports to the U.S. is also an agricultural priority area being discussed. U.S. law prohibits the import of wild caught shrimp and its derivative products if protected



The trade talks last year helped take Indian mangoes to the U.S. market.

sea turtle species are harmed in the process. One way around this is to use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) while fishing for shrimp; India views this as a technical barrier to trade.

In conversations with *The Hindu*, officials on both sides, emphasized that there are priority items in each working group at this stage, cautious not to emphasize any one good or service as having overarching priority across groups. The TPF goes beyond agri-trade to include goods and services in other sectors – and items on these other lists are also of importance, as working groups negotiate on subjects that fall in their respective areas.

Inter-session meeting

The Hindu has learned that the two sides are expected to take part in an inter-session meeting sometime in July. That is when notes across working groups are compared – and negotiations across goods and service categories begin. Four working groups were identified during the TPF – agricultural goods, non-agricultural goods, services and investment (includes digital trade), and intellectual property (IP).

On the U.S. side, greater access to the Indian market for medical devices, as well as digital trade, remain priorities, the U.S. official said. India wants to be reinstated as a beneficiary of the U.S.'s preferential market access programme – the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

India was taken out of the GSP programme by former U.S. President Donald Trump, in June 2019, for not opening up its markets enough (as per Mr Trump). The programme itself expired on December 31, 2020, and has to first be renewed before India is readmitted to it. About \$5.6 billion of Indian exports to the U.S. were covered by the programme, although the tax savings for these products amounted to less – about \$190 million.

Higher bar

The renewal of GSP is featured in the House of Representatives' America Competes Act (2022), and the Senate's U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, 2021, (USICA).

The two pieces of legislation have passed their respective chambers and are currently being reconciled with each other, so they can be sent to President Joe Biden for his assent. The process could carry on through the end of August.

The new House and the Senate language on GSP require beneficiary countries to meet standards on internationally recognized human rights.

They include provisions to ensure beneficiaries are following their own environmental laws and international commitments.

India not conduit for Russian oil: EAM

Jaishankar denies media reports that accuse Indian refiners of profiteering

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India is not a conduit for Russian oil sales to other countries, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday, categorically denying international media reports that suggest Indian private refiners are “profiteering” by buying Russian crude at discounted rates and then selling it to other buyers at much higher prices.

“There’s an enormous shortage of oil...Getting access to oil is difficult. A country like India would be crazy to get oil from somebody and sell it to somebody else. This is nonsense,” he said when asked about the reports at the ‘GlobeSec Bratislava Forum’ conference in the Slovak Republic on Friday.



S. Jaishankar

To a question whether India was allowing the “transshipment of oil”, Mr. Jaishankar said he had “not even heard about anybody in India thinking along the lines of [buying Russian oil and selling it to somebody else]”. He also criticised Europe for double standards in holding India to account for buying Russian oil, while making exceptions for its own coun-

tries that import Russian oil and gas. “Europe has to grow out of the mindset that Europe’s problems are the world’s problems. But the world’s problems are not Europe’s problems,” he added in response to a question that compared India’s issues in the Indo-Pacific, and challenge from China with the situation in Europe.

In the past few days, at least two international news organisations have reported on the sharp jump in the Indian intake of crude oil from Russia, offered at discounts due to sanctions, both referring to a report from data intelligence agency Kpler. According to one *Reuters* report that quoted Kpler, India’s May imports of Russian crude were nearly nine times the previous year, and June imports, estimated at

1.05 million barrels per day (bpd), would mean that Russia’s share of India’s total imports will rise to just under “one quarter” (25%), a dramatic spike considering that they were around 2% of the total last year.”

Another report by *Reuters* said the increased crude purchases were being processed by two refiners in Gujarat - Reliance and Nayara Energy (in which Russia’s Rosneft has a 49% stake). It said that Indian fuel exports were “15% higher” in January-June 2022, compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, the *Wall Street Journal* had called India a “key hub of Russian oil flows”, where processed oil products were allegedly finding their way to markets abroad.

(With inputs from
Damini Nath)

Supreme Court objects to frivolous PIL petitions

Litigant told to pay ₹2 lakh for 'luxury litigation'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitioner in the Supreme Court on Friday barely escaped having to pay ₹18 lakh for indulging in a "luxury litigation".

A Vacation Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Hima Kohli initially asked the litigant to pay ₹18 lakh, that is, ₹1 lakh for every one of the 18 minutes the case took up.

However, the court later, in its order, slashed the

amount to ₹2 lakh on the request of the litigant's counsel.

This case came up shortly after the same Bench had pronounced a judgment underlining how flippant PIL petitions both encroach into valuable judicial time and stall development work undertaken by the government.

Justice Gavai, speaking for the Bench, observed that "the highly derogatory practice of filing frivolous petitions encroach on valuable judicial time which can otherwise be utilised for addressing genuine concerns".

However, in a February 2022 judgment in the case *Esteem Properties Pvt. Ltd.*



vs Chetan Kamble, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana takes a balanced view of the good and the bad in the PIL petitions.

In that judgment, the top court had acknowledged that "thousands of frivolous petitions are filed, burdening the docket of both the Su-

preme Court and the High Courts".

'Beneficial effect'

But PIL petitions have also had a "beneficial effect on the Indian jurisprudence and has alleviated the conditions of the citizens in general", the judgment had noted.

The court in *Jaipur Shahaar Hindu Vikas Samiti vs State of Rajasthan* had emphasised how such petitions "bring justice to people who are handicapped by ignorance, indigence, illiteracy."

The Supreme Court had also issued eight directions in its Balwant Singh Chauhan judgment to help constitutional courts separate ge-

nuine PIL petitions from the barmy ones.

It had asked every High Court to frame its own rules to encourage *bona fide* PIL petitions and curb the motivated ones.

Some of these directions included verifying the credentials of the petitioner before entertaining the plea; checking the correctness of the contents; ensuring the petition involves issues of "larger public interest, gravity and urgency" which requires priority; ensuring there is no personal gain, or oblique motive behind the PIL; ensuring that it is aimed at redressal of genuine public harm or public injury.

New India needs free and quality higher education

Corporates, alumni and the government can work towards creating strong philanthropic support and tax breaks



RAJESH MEHTA &
PRITAM B. SHARMA

At a time when the demand for quality education and research in leading universities in India and advanced nations is on the rise, the staggering tuition fees demanded by universities of repute, besides deterring the meritorious from pursuing their degrees from world-class universities, create compulsions to turn professions into business propositions rather than opportunities to serve and excel.

Carving out a niche in the annals of the global education architecture, New York University's NYU Grossman School of Medicine announced that from the 2021-22 academic year, it will pay the tuition fees for all its students admitted in its MD programme, regardless of their financial needs, thereby becoming the first major American medical school to do so.

Kenneth G. Langone, Chair of NYU Langone Health's Board of Trustees, who made his U.S.\$3.5 billion fortune as a co-founder of Home Depot, with his wife Elaine, has given U.S.\$100 million to fund the tuition package. NYU has al-

ready raised more than U.S.\$450 million of the U.S.\$600 million it needs to fund the programme.

In India too, the burden of tuition fees in professional courses is becoming unbearable. Besides, it is causing a serious concern of reducing quality professional education to a commodity rather than the noble service that it ought to be.

Educational loans, even with government collateral guarantee, are no answer, as the mounting debt of educational loans will cripple the economy of development and public welfare. What we need is a university system that fosters an environment of learning in which world-quality education can be provided without taxing learners with the burden of tuition fees.

The Nordic model

The Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden – provide free higher education to their people, and overseas students were able to study for free until recently. In Denmark, however, tuition fees were introduced for international students from outside the European Union and the European Economic Area, in 2011. Only Finland, Norway, Iceland, and Germany do not charge international students tuition fees. This ensures that students receive quality education in the streams



that they desire rather than pursuing streams that allow them to earn highly so as to repay their student debt.

As an article in January 2022 says: 'the Nordic model has attracted a significant amount of attention from other nations. Many people wonder if it provides a template for smaller countries where citizens are more homogeneous in terms of their opinions and experiences, yet live in poverty or repression as a result of government policies'.

Despite some attempts to impose fees, all these countries are outliers in a world where international students are frequently a valuable source of revenue for institutions. Last year, the topic resurfaced in Finland when the government recommended that institutions be allowed to charge tuition for international students from outside the European Union. Following a heated public debate, the Finnish government opted not to proceed with the proposals.

All Nordic countries have a

strong legacy of equality, extending to equal opportunities in the education system. The Nordic countries have measures in place to promote gender equality and assist students from lower socioeconomic categories to gain access to higher education. It is no wonder that these countries continue to figure in top of the world happiness index (Finland at No.1, Denmark at No. 2, Iceland at No.4, Norway at No.8 and Germany at No.14, as per the World Happiness Index 2022).

It reshapes student choices

A ray of hope for evolving a progressive university system in professional education has been provided by NYU's Grossman School of Medicine. In its announcement, the NYU had pointed out the fact that "overwhelming student debt" is reshaping the medical profession in ways that are bad for the health-care system. Such debts prompt graduates to pursue high-paying specialties rather than careers in family medicine, paediatrics, and obstetrics and gynaecology. The lead taken by the NYU is bound to inspire many other leading universities to consider and value the student's intellectual acumen rather than financial investment.

But then, universities need funds for education and research. Education is a noble service and an investment to charter a bright

future for humanity. If students pay for education, they would be forced to earn from the degrees they acquire. The profession then becomes a privilege to earn rather than a privilege to serve and excel, as it ought to have been.

There is a strong case for reviving philanthropy and community support for higher education in India. Corporates, generous alumni, and people at large can join in to create strong philanthropic support for higher education and make quality education tuition-free. The government, for its part, should be generous enough to declare such philanthropic donations to the cause of higher education and research tax-free, now that the treasury is full of funds from the ever-growing list of income tax and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) payers.

Can we, then, make the prophecy of the great management guru, Philip B. Crosby, come true in higher education, who, during the quality revolution in the late 1970s, advocated that "Quality is Free!"

Rajesh Mehta is a leading consultant and columnist working on market entry, innovation and public policy.

Pritam B. Sharma is a renowned Indian academician, past President of the Association of Indian Universities, and founder Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi Technological University and Rajiv Gandhi Proutyogiki Vishwavidyalaya

May services PMI hits a 133-month high

Jobs still shrink as sentiment stays subdued on inflation pressures, continued drop in global orders'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index for May signalled that the country's services sector may have recorded its best monthly expansion in more than 11 years, with the survey-based PMI gauge rising to 58.9 last month from April's 57.9. A reading higher than 50 indicates growth.

Services providers reported the quickest increase in business activity since April 2011, with new orders rising at the highest rate since July 2011, even as input cost pressures quickened at the fastest pace since the survey started in December 2005.

May marked the 23rd successive month when firms reported rising input prices, led by higher food, fuel, la-



Jettisoning people: Service companies shed jobs in May, as global orders fell for the 26th month. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

bour, material, retail and transportation costs, compelling them to raise selling prices at the second-highest rate in almost five years.

Despite stronger domestic demand, service providers still shed jobs in May, as global orders fell for the 26th

month in a row since the COVID-19 lockdowns of March 2020, and sentiment remained low on concern inflation may dent the recovery.

Within services, consumer services was the brightest spot even though it also faced the highest surge in in-

put costs. Transport, information and communication services firms passed on higher costs to buyers at the fastest pace.

'Price outlook worsens'

"The reopening of the Indian economy continued to help lift growth in the service sector [but] the inflation outlook appeared to have worsened as input prices rose at the sharpest pace in the survey history," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Ms. De Lima noted that output charge inflation eased only slightly from April, being the second-highest in just under five years, as several firms mentioned the need to transfer mounting costs through to clients.

"Elevated price pressures continued to restrict business optimism. Despite picking up from April, the overall level of sentiment among service providers was historically subdued," Ms. De Lima concluded.

The S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index, which factors in both services and manufacturing sectors' performance, rose to 58.3 in May, from 57.6 in April, marking the fastest rate of expansion since November 2021.

"Aggregate cost burdens rose at the fastest rate since March 2011," S&P Global said in a note. "Concurrently, output charges at the composite level rose further, with the overall rate of inflation little-changed from April's nine-year high."

'Wheat export ban not against farmers'

Food Minister says 'immediate' halt of export ensured availability of adequate stocks for local use

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The ban on wheat exports has not hurt Indian farmers as has been alleged by some 'ignorant' Opposition leaders, Union Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, stressing that the government's pro-active decision had saved the country from a 'catastrophic disaster'.

Promising a probe into all wheat export transactions, the Minister said the 'immediate' halt announced last month had ensured there were adequate stocks for domestic consumers and prices had already fallen about ₹5 a kilo at the retail level, Mr. Goyal said. Farmers, he argued, had already sold their produce before the

Our concern was that traders, speculators and hoarders should not get control of this valuable wheat and then charge exorbitant prices from poor and vulnerable nations and cause distress to the people of the world

PIYUSH GOYAL
Union Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution



ban, which was reflected in the government's inability to procure more than 6 lakh tonnes of wheat after the ban.

"Farmers had already sold their produce, and having sold it, if they, the traders, would have indiscriminately exported it at high profit, beyond a point, it could have been harmful for our own food security, our own re-

quirement and prices could have sky-rocketed," he said.

While asserting that India was never a major wheat exporter, the Minister said it still had some stocks that could be sent to needy countries.

"Our concern was that traders, speculators and hoarders should not get control of this valuable wheat and then charge exorbitant

prices from poor and vulnerable nations," he said.

An inter-ministerial panel was examining some countries' request for wheat and the government had sought a commitment that these consignments would be used only for their local populations.

"All exports of wheat, including those that were authorised, were being investigated and verified because some people had tried to cheat the ban by making back-dated applications and Letters of Credit (LCs)," he said.

"The government will come down strongly on anybody who has tried to back-date an LC, made an application for exports based on irregular documents, even those who have already got authorisation based on the

online approval process, we are investigating each one of those also to verify," the Minister emphasised.

Reacting to a report about Turkey rejecting Indian wheat, Mr. Goyal said India had never sent any wheat to the country and no one had raised quality concerns about Indian wheat in the last two years.

"An investigation is on but what we have learnt so far is that this consignment was exported by ITC Limited, which is large and reputed company even globally and there is no doubt on their quality standards and control procedures. You will be shocked to learn that ITC had sold this wheat to the Netherlands and was not even aware that this was for Turkey," the Minister said.

Keep ESZ of 1 km around forests: SC

Court directs govt. to maintain eco-sensitive zone to protect natural resources

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.

Environment Ministry guidelines show that the purpose of declaring ESZs around national parks, forests and sanctuaries is to create some kind of a “shock absorber” for the protected areas.

These zones would act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to those involving lesser protection.



Mining is not permitted within national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

A three-judge Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, B.R. Gavai and Aniruddha Bose, in a 60-page judgment, highlighted how the nation’s natural resources have been for years ravaged by mining and other activities. The judgment, by Justice Bose, observed that the

government should not confine its role to that of a “facilitator” of economic activities for the “immediate upliftment of the fortunes of the State”.

The State also has to act as a trustee for the benefit of the general public in relation to the natural resources so that sustainable development could be achieved in the long term.

“Such a role of the State is more relevant today, than, possibly, at any point of time in history with the threat of climate catastrophe resulting from global warming looming large,” Justice Bose wrote for the Bench.

The judgment came on a petition instituted for the protection of forest lands in

the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, the scope of that writ petition was enlarged by the court so as to protect such natural resources throughout the country.

In a series of directions, the court held that in case any national park or protected forest already has a buffer zone extending beyond one km, that would prevail. In case the question of the extent of buffer zone was pending a statutory decision, then the court’s direction to maintain the one-km safety zone would be applicable until a final decision is arrived. The court directed that “mining within the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries shall not be permitted”.

Kashmiri Pandits flee Valley

‘Back-to-back killings have shattered our faith in the security system’

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Hundreds of fear-stricken Kashmiri Pandits left the Valley for the Hindu-majority Jammu district on Friday even as the Centre turned down their demand of relocation. Scores of vehicles, carrying Pandit employees and their families, left the Valley in the morning from the Pandit transit colonies in south Kashmir’s Mattan and Vessu, Srinagar’s Sheikhpora and north Kashmir’s Baramulla and Kupwara.

Kashmiri Pandits living in the Mattan transit colony in Anantnag said over 80% of the families left for Jammu since June 1. “We hear only hollow assurances from the administration. We do not feel safe after the recent killings. Of the 96 families living in the Mattan colony, only a dozen are left behind. They too will leave this place in coming days,” said a Pandit employee, on the condition of anonymity.

A majority of the 250 Pandit employees living in rented houses in Mattan area hired vehicles before sunrise and moved to Jammu district, which is around 290 km from the Valley.

“There are back-to-back killings in the Valley. The kill-



Way to safety: A Kashmiri Pandit family that fled the Valley, arriving at a migrant camp on the outskirts of Jammu on Friday. ■ AP

ings of a schoolteacher and a bank manager have shattered our faith in the security system. Our only demand is to relocate the employees outside Kashmir till the situation improves. Posting employees to district headquarters won’t help or protect them,” said a protesting Pandit in the Mattan camp.

120 families reach camp

The Jagti camp in Jammu, set up in the 1990s, received 120 Kashmiri Pandit families from north Kashmir’s Baramulla and Kupwara districts in the past 24 hours.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Kashmiri Pandits flee Valley

“The killing of Pandits has not stopped since 1990. In the 1990s, we knew where there was a greater degree of threat. This time we are not sure which place is safe,” a Pandit employee said.

One unofficial estimate suggested that over 300 Pandits had reached Jammu in the past two days. However, the government has neither confirmed nor denied the reports of mass migration of Pandits from the Valley.

Meanwhile, Sanjay K. Tickoo, president of the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti, a body of Kashmiri Pandits who did not leave

the Valley in the 1990s, has written a letter to the J&K Chief Justice. “Every member of the religious minority is under direct threat from the terrorists operating in Kashmir Valley. The UT and the Central administration have failed to secure their lives,” Mr. Tickoo said in the letter.

He said it was a clear violation of the right to life, that on the one hand, the administration failed to protect their lives and on the other hand, it does not let them leave the Kashmir Valley so that they can protect their lives.

Situation in Valley under control, says govt. official

‘Govt. cannot encourage migration’

VIJAITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

Dismissing that security situation is deteriorating in the Kashmir Valley, a senior government official said on Friday that the newly created Union Territory has seen arrival of record 10 lakh tourists this year and hotels and flights were booked for the next three months.

The official said that around 5,500 Kashmiri Pandits employed under the Prime Minister’s special rehabilitation package in 2015 have been posted to secure locations at district headquarters. Similar arrangement will be made for 10,000 non-Muslim government employees in the Valley. The employees have been demanding relocation to Jammu in wake of the targeted killing of Kashmir Pandits and Hindus in the past

few months.

The official said that an online portal started in September 2021 to address the grievances of Kashmiri migrants related to immovable properties and community assets had received 8,000 complaints so far and 6,500 complaints have been resolved. “Around 2500 kanals of land (around 312 acre) has been restored to Kashmiri Pandits,” the official said.

The official asserted that the administration cannot encourage the migration of Pandits to Jammu as it will be a repeat of the situation in 1990s and government cannot be a part of the exodus of an entire community. Those living in transit accommodations in the Valley have been locked up by the administration to stop them from leaving.

General Studies Paper I

A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies

General Studies Paper II

A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.