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DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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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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The Dravidian movement and Aryan illusions

The gubernatorial remarks on Aryan-Dravidian differences can only be described as a case of historical negationism



MANURAJ SHUNMUGASUNDARAM

The remarks that the Governor of Tamil Nadu, R.N. Ravi, made last week, on Aryan-Dravidian differences being geographical and not racial, offer remarkable insights into the contemporary political state-of-affairs. In stark contrast to other Governors in non-Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States, Mr. Ravi has walked into the ideological thicket. The linkages Tamil Nadu has to the Dravidian political ideology are inalienable and the remarks made by Mr. Ravi must be viewed with some concern. While such interventions by uneducated Governors in non-BJP ruled States have become par for the course, it is imperative to look closely into the merits and veracity of the claims raised by Mr. Ravi, for these go to revising the well-established idea of India itself.

Linguistics and race

The statements made by the Governor, initially at a function to commemorate the Vellore Sepoy Mutiny and then repeated at a function at Madurai Kamaraj University, can only be described as historical negationism. In the past, various leaders have strongly contested the Aryan Migration theory and have attributed the emergence and the evolution of the Aryan-Dravidian distinction to the British. By wading into this hotly contested ideological battle, Mr. Ravi has attempted to shake up the political discourse in Tamil Nadu.

What is notable, however, is that Mr. Ravi is not the first to make such claims. In fact, in his book, *Bunch of Thoughts*, the second chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, M.S. Golwalkar, viewed the Aryan-Dravidian distinction as a territorial denomination. By doing so, Golwalkar attempted to position Aryans as natives of the Indian subcontinent in the 'Out of India Theory' – which has now been widely discredited by academics. Nevertheless, the issues raised by Golwalkar, and now Mr. Ravi, must be taken seriously not because they are backed by academic rigour but because they challenge the idea of India itself. The Indian subcontinent boasts of a rich and diverse history involving multi-ethnic origins, and this has been established by in-depth scholarship on linguistics, mythology, folklore and anthropology, archaeology, geology, big-history and genetics. It was based on these academic pursuits that linguistic studies have established the uniqueness of the Dravidian language family (Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu, Tamil and so on).

Robert Caldwell, in his seminal work, *A Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian or South-Indian Family of Languages* (published in 1856), has offered empirical evidence of the non-Sanskrit origins of Dravidian languages. The breakthrough in understanding linguistics was not an isolated event. It was accompanied by the emergence of a Tamil Renaissance movement that enabled a culture of political consciousness founded upon rationalism and spurred by social justice. Ideologies such as Ayotheethasa Pandithar, Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai and M.S. Purnalingam Pillai as well as latter



GETTY IMAGES

day 'Justice Party' leaders such as Dr. T.M. Nair, P. Theagaraya Chetty and Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliar championed the socio-political call for the emancipation of non-Brahmins. As such, these circumstances collectively seeded the idea of what was to become the Dravidian Movement – that took shape formally on November 20, 1916 at a meeting in Victoria Public Hall in then Madras city. In the book, *Pre-Aryan Tamil Culture* (published in 1985), P.T. Srinivasa Aiyangar establishes the existence of Dravidian culture using Sangam-era literature.

Archaeological evidence

The existence of a unique, pre-Aryan populace with a distinct cultural heritage and evolved literary traits has been fortified by archaeological evidence collected from the discovery of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro in the early 1920s, and further substantiated by the ongoing Keezhadi excavations in Tamil Nadu. With modern day advancements in handling fragile biodegradable material from excavation sites and also high-throughput genomic sequencing, we now understand how the Indian subcontinent was populated through waves of migration.

These studies confirm the historical facts that have seeped into common understanding in Tamil Nadu over the course of the century-old Dravidian Movement. In

2018, the paper titled 'The Genomic Formation of South and Central Asia' (co-authored by 92 scientists across a range of disciplines), further confirmed that Aryan migration into the subcontinent between 2000 BCE and 1000 BCE. Published scientific work that followed also established that the Harappans of the Indus Valley Civilization created an agricultural revolution in the subcontinent and narrowed the period of Aryan migration to 2000 BCE and 1500 BCE.

A theory debunked

Recent scientific findings have conclusively debunked the 'Out of India Theory', which is part of the larger narrative suggesting that Dravidians and Aryans are ethnically similar but geographically divided. This has posed serious problems to the supporters of Golwalkar who have recently set out to discover the lost, mystic river Saraswati and to repackage the Indus Valley Civilization as the 'Saraswati Civilization' without taking into account research which suggests that the language of Harappans could have been Dravidian/Proto-Dravidian. As such, C.N. Annadurai (Anna), a stalwart of the Dravidian Movement and a former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, had anticipated such baseless positioning in his book, *Arya Mayai* (Aryan Illusion).

Anna, building on Periyar E.V. Ramasami's teachings, structured a socio-political discourse against superstitions, false beliefs and fake histories. Dravidian leaders including Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi supplemented their social policies with academic rigour, scientific temper and rational thinking – these became the benchmark of Dravidian politics. Even when pol-

itical differences cropped up between the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, its leaders did not make compromises on their steadfast beliefs in the core values of the Dravidian Movement and their opposition to caste-based social structures.

The 'Dravidian model'

Therefore, it is not surprising that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, has championed the cause of state interventions to root out inequalities and to create a fair ecosystem for everyone to thrive; he has called this the 'Dravidian Model'. It is also a fact that the Chief Minister presented a book, titled *Dravidian Model*, to the Governor. This book, authored by economists Kalaiyaran A. and Vijayabaskar M., provides a detailed, empirical interpretation of the modern-day political economy of Tamil Nadu.

In the remainder of his tenure in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Ravi may come across various such books, in addition to those cited here, that record meticulous evidence on how languages of India were shaped by waves of migration; and how streams of social movements took birth to speak emancipatory ideologies in different languages to make India a multi-source civilisation. Any other theory that the Governor may encounter needs to be viewed with suspicion in the face of overwhelming evidence supporting the migration of Indo-European speakers, who were called Aryans, to India almost 4,000 years ago.

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court and Spokesperson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)

Russia, Ukraine seal grain exports deal

In their first deal since the war began, the countries agreed to start shipping food via the Black Sea

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISTANBUL

Kyiv and Moscow on Friday penned a landmark agreement with Turkey and the UN on Friday to unblock Ukraine's Black Sea grain exports after a Russian blockade raised fears of a global food crisis.

In their first major deal after nearly five months of fighting, Russian and Ukrainian delegations signed individual agreements with Ankara and the UN in the wake of several rounds of laborious negotiations.

Ukraine had warned ahead of the signing that any Russian "provocations" around its encircled Black Sea ports would be met with a swift military response and refused to pen the same papers as Moscow. "Today, there



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Turkish President Erdogan with Ukrainian and Turkish officials. ■ AFP

is a beacon on the Black Sea – a beacon of hope, a beacon of possibility, a beacon of relief," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said at the signing ceremony in the lavish Dolmabahce Palace on the Bosphorus Strait.

The deal agreed through UN and Turkish mediation establishes safe corridors along which Ukrainian ships can come in and out of three designated Black Sea ports in and around Odessa.

And both sides also

pledged not to attack ships on the way in or out.

"It will bring relief for developing countries on the edge of bankruptcy and the most vulnerable people on the edge of famine," Mr. Guterres said.

The five-month war, which has displaced millions and left thousands dead, is being fought across one of Europe's most fertile regions by two of the world's biggest grain producers. Up to 25 million tonnes of wheat and other grain have been blocked in Ukrainian ports by Russian warships and landmines Kyiv has laid to avert a feared amphibious assault.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan – a key player in the negotiations who has good relations with

both Moscow and Kyiv – said he hoped the deal would "hopefully revive the path to peace". U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss congratulated Turkey and UN for brokering the deal but cautioned "we will be watching to ensure Russia's actions match its words".

Earlier, Ukrainian presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak explained the two sides would sign "mirror" agreements. "We sign an agreement with Turkey and the UN and undertake obligations to them. Russia signs a mirror agreement with Turkey and the UN," he said on social media. He warned that Russian breaches of the deal and incursions around Ukraine's ports would be met with "an immediate military response".

Law panel to examine simultaneous elections

50 State polls held from 2014 to 2022

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The issue of holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections had been referred to the Law Commission for a practicable road map and a framework can be worked out, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

In a written reply, Mr. Rijiju also cited a report of a parliamentary panel which noted that frequent elections lead to “disruption” of normal public life and impact the functioning of essential services and that simultaneous polls would reduce the massive expenditure incurred to conduct separate elections every

year. Between 2014 and 2022, there were as many as 50 State Assembly elections.

Election expenses

The entire expenditure on the conduct of elections to the Lok Sabha is borne by the Centre and the expenditure on the conduct of elections to the State legislatures is borne by the respective State governments when such polls are held independently. In case the elections are held simultaneously, the expenditure is borne by the States concerned and the Centre on a fifty-fifty basis. The funds disbursed to the States/Union Territories between 2014 and 2022 amounted to ₹7,432 crores, the Minister added.

Currency caution

The rupee might still be overvalued despite the recent slump

The Indian rupee is experiencing its worst slump in four years. Since the start of 2022, the currency has depreciated by more than 7% against the U.S. dollar, weakening past a historic low of 80 to a dollar mark earlier this week. While the Indian currency is not alone in faring poorly against the greenback, with even the historically strong euro and the British pound taking a hammering and weakening by more than the rupee has, the fact that other currencies too have appreciably lost value against the dollar can only offer cold comfort to India's real economy. Domestic manufacturers and services providers are now having to cope with not just higher dollar prices for the raw materials, equipment or other supplies they may need to procure from overseas, in the wake of the supply disruptions caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, but they also face mounting import bills – the slide means they have to fork out more rupees for the same dollar price from even just a few months ago. The Finance Minister and the RBI Governor have sought to explain the proximate causes for the pressure on the currency and allay apprehensions that the rupee may be in a 'free fall', a scenario that could ultimately prove rather damaging for macro-economic stability by spurring imported inflation at a time when both fiscal and monetary authorities are battling to tame runaway inflation.

While the Minister's statement in the Lok Sabha cited factors including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and soaring crude oil prices as major drivers of the rupee's depreciation, Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday acknowledged concerns about the rupee and pointed to the fact that foreign portfolio investors were "selling off assets and fleeing to safe haven" in the wake of global monetary policy tightening. So far in 2022, FPIs have dumped \$29.6 billion in Indian equity and debt after three straight years of net investments, with the prospect of more, sharp interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve to tame four-decade-high U.S. inflation likely to do little to staunch the outflows. The dollar index, a measure of the greenback's value against a basket of six major currencies, too offers little reassurance to the rupee. The index is just shy of a 20-year high hit last month indicating that investors are betting strongly on dollar-backed assets. The rupee's real effective exchange rate (REER), which provides a weighted average value in relation to a basket of currencies of its major trading partners, is also signalling that the Indian currency is still overvalued and has room to depreciate further. Notwithstanding Mr. Das's assertion that India's underlying fundamentals 'are strong and resilient' with foreign exchange reserves 'adequate', the RBI will need to judiciously utilise every dollar in its war chest to ensure that a likely slowdown in exports and sticky imports do not add more undue pressure on the rupee.

Despite pressures, the rupee's remarkable resilience

Even as the rupee has fallen sharply against the dollar, the depreciation has been relatively lower unlike previous times



CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE

The Indian rupee has depreciated by around 7% against the U.S. dollar, since the start of the year, in response to various domestic and global factors. Specifically, a widening current account deficit, persistent risk-off sentiment as a result of geopolitical tensions, 'a strengthening dollar index, and continuous sell-off by foreign portfolio investors have all put pressure on the rupee'.

Safe-haven demand

It must be noted that the dollar has strengthened against all currencies, developed or emerging. The runaway inflation levels since last year, which have seen consumer price index (CPI) inflation in the United States reaching a multi-decade high of 9.1% in June 2022, have prompted the reversal in the monetary policy stance of the US Federal Reserve. With inflation rising unabated, the Fed is widely expected to continue raising interest rates. Unsurprisingly, the rate hiking cycle by the US Federal Reserve has precipitated the dollar's appreciation which has led the dollar index to strengthen by over 11% in 2022 so far, taking it to a 20-year high.

As a result of higher risk-free returns being available in the U.S., there have been persistent outflows of foreign portfolio capital since October 2021, which, on a cumulative basis, stands at \$30 billion this year. This has intensified the downward pressure on the rupee. The safe-haven demand for the dollar amid geopolitical risks has bolstered the dollar index.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stepped in to arrest a large depreciation in the currency, with interventions in the spot and forward foreign exchange markets. Consequently, India's foreign exchange reserves have moderated by almost \$55 billion from a high of \$635 billion seen this year. Elevated global crude oil prices have impinged on India's oil import bill, in turn widening the trade deficit, thus increasing the demand for U.S. dollars, and affecting forex reserves further.

Notably, even as the rupee has fallen sharply against the dollar, the depreciation has been relatively lower compared with past crises such as the global financial crisis of 2008 (the rupee had weakened by over 20% between December 2007-June 2009) and the Taper Tantrum of 2013 (for seven months from the start of the crisis in May 2013, the rupee had depreciated by over 11%). Much of this is attributed to the lowering of India's external vulnerability measured in terms of a relatively high import cover and low short-term external debt. During the Taper



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Tantrum, India's import cover stood at over seven months as compared to around 12 months in the current period.

Effects of a weak rupee

The implications of a weak rupee on the economy are multi-fold. Among the benefits is the premise that the rupee's weakening should aid exporters in becoming more competitive. However, the concomitant depreciation of currencies of some of India's competitors such as South Korea, Malaysia and Bangladesh against the dollar, along with a high import intensity of some of its key export segments (petroleum, gems and jewellery and electronics), is likely to have blunted the ameliorative impact on India's exports. Slower global demand is expected to affect outbound shipments as well.

On the flip side, a weaker rupee is driving up prices of key import commodities such as coal, oil, edible oil, gold, thus impacting the imported component of inflation. The unhedged component of cor-

porate debt denominated in dollars is also likely to bear the brunt of a weaker rupee.

Most importantly, a continuously sliding exchange rate discourages foreign investors from making fresh investments, which keep losing value in dollar terms. For this reason, it is ideal to provide confidence to investors by arresting a continuous slide in the exchange rate. Of course, any target should be avoided, as global forces remain fluid and market forces should be allowed to play.

The RBI's measures

Apart from intervening in the forex market to arrest the fall in the rupee's value, the RBI announced a slew of measures recently to liberalise foreign inflows into the country and make them more attractive.

Measures such as promoting trade settlements between India and other countries in rupee terms, offering higher interest rates on fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) and Non-Resident External deposits, a widening of investible universe of government and corporate debt, a relaxation of the interest rate and amount ceiling for External Commercial Borrowing loans, among others, have contributed to arresting the rupee's slide against the greenback.

Some other measures could be considered if the slide in the currency continues unabated. The Government could encourage

some of the large market cap companies (private and public sectors) to be included in the major global indices such as MSCI and FTSE. This will help increase the weight of Indian equities in these indices, compensating for foreign portfolio outflows to some extent as investors are unlikely to be underweight on India.

The Government could also expedite India's entry into bond indices such as J.P. Morgan's Emerging-Market Bond Index and Barclays Global Bond Index. This will not only lead to forex inflows but also have a benign impact on interest rates. Such measures will keep the forex war chest of the RBI at a comfortable level, providing the central bank the requisite ammunition in case there is further weakness. Of course, any excessive capital inflow leading to an appreciation of the currency should also be avoided.

Overall, even as the rupee is expected to remain under pressure in the near term because of global uncertainty, high commodity prices and rising U.S. interest rates, mitigating measures have to be taken to partly arrest the slide. The maintenance of the U.S.-India interest rate differential along with timely forex market interventions by the central bank to manage volatility will prove to be salutary in preserving the rupee value against the greenback.

Chandrajit Banerjee is Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

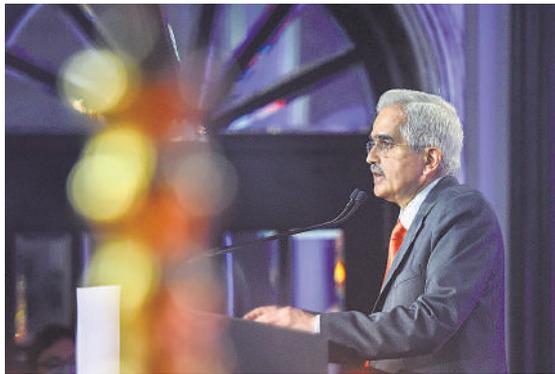
‘RBI will iron out volatile rupee moves’

Das says will act to ensure rupee finds its level; currency holding up ‘well’ relative to advanced peers

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das stressed on Friday that while the central bank was committed to ensuring that the rupee found its level in line with its fundamentals and did not target any specific value, it would intervene decisively to iron out any volatile or bumpy movements in the currency’s exchange rate.

“I would like to reiterate that we have no particular level of the rupee in mind, but we would like to ensure its orderly evolution and we have zero tolerance for volatile and bumpy movements,” Mr. Das said at a banking conference in Mumbai, referring to the RBI’s stance on the rupee’s recent depreciation against the U.S. dollar.



Anchoring market: By eschewing sudden and volatile shifts, we have ensured expectations remain anchored: Das. ■PTI

Asserting that the rupee was ‘holding up well relative to both advanced and emerging market peers’ due to India’s ‘underlying fundamentals being strong, resilient and intact’, Mr. Das said the RBI’s actions, including mea-

sures to encourage inflows, had ensured that the rupee’s moves had been relatively smooth and orderly.

“By eschewing sudden and volatile shifts, we have ensured that expectations remain anchored and the fo-

rex market functions in a stable and liquid manner.”

Underscoring the need to recognise that spillovers from global monetary policy tightening, the geopolitical situation, the still elevated commodity prices especially of crude oil, as well as the lingering effects of the pandemic had all combined to affect currencies worldwide, Mr. Das observed: “Even reserve currencies such as the Japanese yen, the euro, and the British pound sterling have not been spared”.

“Portfolio funds are selling off assets and fleeing to safe haven. Emerging market economies are particularly affected by capital outflows, currency depreciations and reserve drawdowns, complicating macroeconomic management,” he noted.

Mr Das said the impact of these overwhelming spillovers on India had been relatively modest.

‘Reserves adequate’

Emphasising that the economic recovery was gradually strengthening, he said: “current account deficit is modest; inflation is stabilising; the financial sector is well-capitalised and sound; external debt to GDP ratio is declining; foreign exchange reserves are adequate.”

In recognition of the fact that there was a shortfall of supply of forex in the market relative to demand because of import and debt servicing requirements and portfolio outflows, the RBI had been supplying dollars to ensure that there was adequate forex liquidity, Mr. Das said.

Rupee snaps 11-week losing streak, RBI steps in

Currency ends Friday at 79.90 a dollar

REUTERS
MUMBAI

The Indian rupee snapped a 11-week losing streak on Friday, benefiting from Reserve Bank of India intervention after it fell through the 80-per-dollar mark.

The partially convertible rupee ended at 79.90.

The RBI has zero tolerance for volatile and bumpy movements in the rupee and will continue to engage with the foreign exchange market to ensure the rupee finds its appropriate level, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday. The rupee touched a low of 80.0650 on Tuesday but dollar sales by state-run banks on behalf of the RBI helped limit further losses, traders said.

Bond yields edged lower,

tracking their U.S. peers, after a bigger-than-expected rate increase by the ECB brought the focus back onto a possible global recession.

DBS said in a note that despite recent signs suggesting inflation may have peaked, it was premature to go easy on inflation as a past RBI study had shown that a 5% depreciation in the rupee versus their baseline projection could push inflation higher by about 20 basis points and vice versa. The RBI's baseline rupee projection was at 76 a dollar as per an April report.

"This explains the RBI's preference to anchor the exchange rate so as not to aggravate supply-side price pressures," said DBS economist Radhika Rao.



Clean slate: SC asks GSTN to ensure there are no technical glitches, gives officers 90 days to pass orders. ■ K. PICHUMANI

SC directs fresh window for transition tax credits

Ruling to aid countless GST assesseees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Taxpayers who had missed out on getting the benefit of transitional tax credits during India's switchover to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime five years ago, will now get a fresh window to avail them, with the Supreme Court on Friday directing the country's revenue authorities to facilitate such credits.

The move is likely to benefit hundreds of GST assesseees who had hitherto not been able to avail such credits, with a two-month window to claim them set to become available over September and October.

'Allow fresh filing'

The apex court has directed the government to allow fresh filing of Tran 1 and Tran 2 forms, which were brought in under the GST system initially to allow assesseees to carry forward pre-GST credits to the new indirect tax regime.

"The Supreme Court has directed that the GSTN (GST Network) portal must open a common portal for all assesseees to claim transitional credit for 60 days from September 1 till October 30," said Abhishek Rastogi, partner at Khaitan and Co.,

who represented taxpayers' challenge in the matter. "All assesseees that were affected can claim benefit whether they have filed a writ petition on the issue or not," Mr. Rastogi added.

Abhishek Jain, tax partner at KPMG India, said the court's decision was significant as various tax payers had contested that these transition forms could not be filed in a timely manner on account of technical glitches, and that even otherwise their right to transition the credit could not be denied to them.

'Verify on merits'

"The GSTN has been asked to make sure there are no technical glitches during this time, and officers have been given 90 days to verify the claim of credit on merits and pass appropriate orders, and grant hearing opportunities to taxpayers," said Mr. Rastogi.

"This is a golden opportunity for the industry players irrespective of whether they were a party to the writ petition or not, and all businesses should look at any pre-GST credit that was not duly transitioned, in light of this landmark SC verdict," KPMG India's Mr. Jain said.

‘Sugar output to rise by 5 lakh tonne next season’

Area under sugarcane rose 4%: ISMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Sugar production during the next season (October 2022 to September 2023) is expected to be about five lakh tonne higher than the current season, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) estimates.

Area under sugarcane has increased 4% this year. This is expected to result in sugar production going up to 399.97 lakh tonne (before diversion for ethanol) next season as against 394 lakh tonne this sugar season, the Association said.

Ethanol blending

In the current season, almost 34 lakh tonne of sugar was diverted for ethanol till July 10. Ethanol blending in 2022-2023 is expected to be



12% and hence, about 545 crore litre of ethanol would be required. It is estimated that about 45 lakh tonne would be diverted for ethanol next sugar season.

With domestic consumption of sugar estimated to be approximately 275 lakh tonne, 2022-2023 sugar season would have almost 80 lakh tonne of surplus sugar which can be exported, the ISMA said.

‘Most new passenger vehicles could be electric by 2050’

Ownership of two-wheelers would saturate, says study

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Electric passenger vehicles could comprise 30% and 75% of new vehicle sales in India by 2030 and 2050, respectively, according to a study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

Close to half of new two-wheelers and over a quarter of new three- and four-wheelers sold in 2030, the study projected, could be electric. Therefore, the Centre and the State governments would need to invest significantly more in charging infrastructure and support local supply chain development to support this rapid growth in electric vehicle sales.

CEEW’s ‘India Transport Energy Outlook’, as the stu-



Electric scooters at an expo in Bengaluru. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

dy is called, underlined that in the next three decades, ownership of four-wheelers could grow by nine times.

The ownership of two-wheelers, though, would saturate with rising income levels. The overwhelming shift to four-wheelers, aided by rising income levels, would significantly impact the transport sector’s energy demand and emissions. At present, India’s transport

sector accounts for around 21% of the total energy consumed and produces fewer emissions compared with developed countries.

“Energy demand from transport sector is set to grow manifold over the next 30 years, in line with the expected rise in the per capita income. Therefore, decarbonising the transport sector, especially the hard-to-abate aviation sector and long-distance freight transport, is crucial for India’s short and long-term climate goals,” Vaibhav Chaturvedi, fellow, CEEW, said in a statement. The study also said that a decline in the share of public transport and rapid growth in air travel would pose significant challenges to India’s efforts to decarbonise the transport sector.

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.