



VEDHIK

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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Pakistan to take part in closing ceremony of SCO anti-terror exercise hosted by India

Officials sources confirm the country's delegation has been invited for the exercise aimed at building synergy between Counter Terrorism Forces of SCO RATS member countries; India participated in JATE-2021 hosted by Pakistan

Dinakar Peri
Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Pakistan has been invited to the closing ceremony, on October 13, of the ongoing Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE) within the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being hosted by India, official and diplomatic sources confirmed.

"Pakistan delegation has been extended an invitation for the closing ceremony on the last day of JATE 'Manesar Anti-terror 2022'," a diplomatic source said, which was confirmed by official sources.

The National Security Guard (NSG) is hosting the multinational JATE "Manesar Anti-Terror 2022", under the framework of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) at the NSG Manesar Garrison.

It is understood that a Pakistan team is participating in the event as a member of the SCO, an official



Anti-terrorism drills: The joint anti-terrorist exercise "Manesar Anti-Terror 2022" began at the NSG Manesar Garrison from October 8. TWITTER/@NSGBLACKCATS

source said. India also participated in the RATS meet last year, the source noted. An Indian delegation had participated in the closing ceremony of the two-week JATE-2021 hosted by Pakistan at the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi, in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, in September 2021.

The exercise is aimed at

exchanging expertise, best practices and build synergy between the Counter Terrorism Forces of the SCO RATS member countries to enhance capabilities for conducting anti-terrorist operations and countering other security threats collectively, the NSG said in a statement.

In May, counter-terror officials of Pakistan, Rus-

sia, China and four Central Asian countries met in Delhi under the structure as India assumed its role as Chairperson of the SCORATS mechanism in October 2021. JATE is an annual counter terrorist exercise held within the framework of the SCO RATS.

The statement issued by NSG on Sunday said that Stage-1 of the exercise was

conducted from July 27 to August 01, 2022 by the National Counter Terrorism Forces (NCTF) of SCO member countries in their respective territories. "Stage-2 of the Exercise is being conducted from October 8 to 13 at NSG Manesar Garrison, in which eight representatives from NCTF of Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation and NSG of Republic of India are participating," a statement issued by NSG on Sunday stated.

The exercise will be witnessed by four "observers" from Executive Committee (EC) of RATS and one observer from State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan.



For an exclusive video
Watch| Samarkand SCO: Can India straddle West and East?
<https://bitly.ly/44rly>

How Xi remade China's Party-State

While Xi Jinping's rapid accumulation of power through various policies such as a strict anti-corruption campaign and a remake of the Party-State system may have brought him firm unchallenged control, it has removed any and all space for dissent

WORLD INSIGHT

Ananth Krishnan

At the time of Xi Jinping's ascension in 2012 at the Communist Party of China's (CPC) 18th Congress, a vigorous debate was playing out in the pages of Communist Party newspapers between the party's 'Left' and 'Right' factions, each arguing for a different direction in the country's politics.

For the Mao-inspired Left, decades of Deng Xiaoping's reforms had only brought inequality and ideological confusion. It was time, they argued, to go back to the first principles. For those on the pro-market Right, the leadership change was an opportunity to finally push for stalled political reforms, and rule China not by Party power but by law and the constitution. Mr. Xi, the son of a reformist former Vice Premier, was their great hope.

Fast forward a decade, and the Party media is a very different beast. Some pro-reform outlets have been shut down and others have had their leadership replaced. Neo-Maoists have maintained a careful silence, breaking it only to praise the current helmsman. Indeed, there is no longer a discernible Left or Right faction, at least in public. Everything begins and ends, as editorials seem to declare on a daily basis, with Xi Jinping.

The New Era

In recent days, many of the bridges that cross high above Beijing's ring roads have been decked in long, red banners hailing a "new era" in China's development. For anyone living in China this past decade, the phrase "new era" (or "xin shidai") immediately connotes one thing: it means the Xi era, which began in 2012.

Since taking over, Mr. Xi appears to have been in a hurry to refashion Chinese politics to define his era. As he opens the CPC's 20th Party Congress this week, he presides over a political landscape that is almost unrecognisable to what he saw when he took over in the midst of an unprecedented political scandal which embarrassed the party, involving the corrupt former Politburo member – and once Xi's rival – Bo Xilai and his wife's murder of a British businessman. When the CPC, last year, passed its third "historical resolution" in its 100-year history – the first in four decades – it alluded to this sense of crisis, noting that when Mr. Xi took over "previously lax and weak governance has enabled inaction and corruption to spread within the Party and led to serious problems in its political environment, which had harmed relations between the Party and the people and between officials and the public, weakened the Party's creativity, cohesiveness, and ability, and posed a serious test to its exercise of national governance." Mr. Xi, it declared, "solved many tough problems that were long on the agenda but never resolved and accomplished many things that were wanted but never got done."

Indeed, the party's sense of existential crisis at the 2012 transition played to Mr. Xi's advantage, who was given the mandate by the party's elders to keep the ship afloat. However, the former leaders who gave him carte blanche to clean the rot got much more than they bargained for.

The policies of Xi

Key to Mr. Xi's rapid accumulation of power was an anti-corruption campaign that was launched immediately after he took over. It laid down strict rules for Party members, which was welcomed by a weary public that had seen CPC officials



Absolute power: Chinese President Xi Jinping appears on-screen during an event marking the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party in 2021. GETTY IMAGES

amass fortunes. At the same time, it also neatly eliminated all of Mr. Xi's rivals. This gave him the political space to embark on a massive restructuring of the Party-State, which was completed in 2018, when the CPC unveiled an entirely new governance structure that, for the first time in decades, brought Party organs out of the shadows and placed them firmly in charge of the State bureaucracy.

The party's sense of existential crisis at the 2012 transition played to Mr. Xi's advantage, who was given the mandate by the party to keep the ship afloat

Also gone was the "collective leadership" model put in place after Deng, that saw a division of responsibilities in the top Politburo Standing Committee. The Premier was no longer given the reins of the economy, and was left to preside over a diminished State bureaucracy.

The Party-State division and system of parallel governance was designed to professionalise governance, particularly in running the economy. Mr. Xi collapsed that division, and his 2018 reforms declared that the "Party is the highest force for political leadership." Central leading groups that in the past held little sway over

the State executed policy were upgraded to "commissions". A new National Supervisory Commission was created to take over all anti-corruption work – the tip of Mr. Xi's spear.

The Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform, headed by Mr. Xi, displaced the bureaucrats of the State Council as the leading policy-making body, just as the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission and Central Foreign Affairs Commission asserted control over economic and diplomatic policies.

The main goal was to end "fiefdoms" that emerged in the Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao areas and put the party – and its "core" leader – in charge of all domains. The civil service – a state within a state – was similarly brought directly under the Central Organisation Department which now handles both Party and State. The Party's secretive Central United Front Work Department was placed in charge of running all religious and ethnic affairs, earlier managed by State commissions.

Cleaning up the army

Along with the overhaul of the political system was the reform of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) – the biggest of all fiefdoms – which all of Mr. Xi's predecessors,

going back to Deng, had failed to do. Here too, the anti-corruption campaign, which struck fear in the Generals after Xi purged the PLA's two highest-ranking Generals who had been accused of running a "pay for post" military, allowed Mr. Xi to carry out what the PLA Daily described as "the largest scale military reform since the 1950s". The reforms ended the Soviet-style General Staff Departments, disbanding four vast bureaucracies handling staff, politics, logistics and armaments and bringing them under the direct control of the Central Military Commission. Seven sprawling military commands were consolidated into five theatre commands with a focus on jointness between forces.

Mr. Xi's remaking of the Party-State may have brought him firm unchallenged control but has removed any and all space for dissent. At the same time, it has also raised the stakes for China's leader as the country deals with a slowing economy and an unpopular "zero-COVID" regime at home, coupled with what many in Beijing see as an increasingly unfavourable environment abroad. If the party's successes in dealing with these challenges may, as its media reminds, rest on Mr. Xi, so will its failures.

This is the first article of a three-part series looking at China's changing politics, economy and diplomacy in the Xi decade.



For the party: Chinese paramilitary officers march during the flag-lowering ceremony at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 2012. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

Since taking over the reigns of the Party in 2012 at the Communist Party of China's (CPC) 18th Congress, Mr. Xi appears to have been in a hurry to refashion Chinese politics to define his era. When the CPC, last year, passed its third "historical resolution" in its 100-year history – the first in four decades – it noted that when Mr. Xi took over, he "solved many tough problems that were long on the agenda but never resolved and accomplished many things that were wanted but never got done."

Key to Mr. Xi's rapid accumulation of power was an anti-corruption campaign that was launched immediately after he took over. It laid down strict rules for Party members, which was welcomed by a weary public that had seen CPC officials amass vast fortunes. The Party-State division and system of parallel governance which was designed to professionalise governance, was collapsed by Mr. Xi through his 2018 reforms which declared that the "Party is the highest force for political leadership."

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Russia launches fresh attack with missile raids

The strikes, which come a day after a key bridge to Crimea was damaged, saw 75 missiles creating havoc in several cities across Ukraine, including Kyiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Lviv

Agence France-Presse

KYIV

Russian forces launched a barrage of fatal bombardments across Ukraine early on Monday, in an apparent retaliation for an explosion that damaged a key bridge to Moscow-annexed Crimea.

The biggest wave of strikes across Ukraine in months killed at least five people in Kyiv and came hours ahead of a meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin's security council. Ukraine's most senior military general said Russia had fired 75 missiles on cities across the country, in a wave of attacks that included Iranian drones.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in an ad-



Targeted strike: Police experts examine destroyed cars in the centre of Ukrainian capital of Kyiv after several Russian strikes. AFP

dress to the nation said the morning had been "difficult" and explained that Russian forces had two targets with its barrage of strikes. "They want panic and chaos and they want to destroy our energy system," Mr. Zelensky said, announcing that Russian

bombs had targeted cities, including Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Lviv.

"The second target is people," he said.

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PUTIN'S VOW

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Russia launches fresh attack with missile raids

U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said the Russian missile strikes on Kyiv and several other cities were “unacceptable”. “This is a demonstration of weakness by (Vladimir) Putin, not strength,” he tweeted. Mr. Zelensky said on social media he had spoken with the leaders of France and Germany and urged them to “increase pressure” on Russia. Ukrainian officials said the central Shevchenko district of the city was hit and that a university, museums and the philharmonic building had been damaged in the strikes. Videos posted on social media showed black smoke rising above several areas in the city.

SC Collegium resolves not to deliberate on appointments

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has resolved not to undertake any further deliberations on 10 names identified for consideration as the top court judges as the Law Ministry has already sent its request to Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit to nominate his successor.

Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and S. Abdul Nazeer had objected to the CJI's proposal to recommend names for appointment as Supreme Court judges through circulation. Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph had concurred with the CJI's proposal, the collegium resolution said. It also said why the collegium was leaving "unfinished" the work of recommending new judges.

Indian prisons are stretched to their limits

In 2021, the crisis was most acute in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi where the occupancy rate crossed 180%

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
& Rebecca Rose Varghese

A news report published in *The Hindu* on Sunday described how the Border Security Force (BSF) in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal is handing over illegal migrants with a clean record to Bangladeshi officials as prisons are overflowing in the State. If normal procedure were to be followed, these illegal migrants would have been lodged in correctional homes, the report added.

The story has put the spotlight back on the age-old problem of overcrowded prisons in India. Data show that in 2021, the latest year for which numbers are available, over 5.54 lakh people were lodged in prison, while the total capacity of Indian jails was about 4.25 lakh. This means that the occupancy rate of Indian prisons was 130%, a peak at least in the last decade.

Breaking point

Chart 1 shows the capacity of Indian prisons, the number of actual prisoners and the occupancy rate in the last decade. While the capacity has increased from some 3.32 lakh to 4.25 lakh in the last decade – a 27% increase – the number of prisoners has shot up from 3.7 lakh to 5.54 lakh in the same period – a 48% increase. This imbalance has caused the occupancy rate to surge from 112% to 130% in the last decade.

The pan-India problem of overflowing jails has worsened in the last decade. However, it was most acute in three northern States/Union Territories – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. In these three regions, the occupancy rate crossed 180% in 2021 (180 prisoners for every 100 vacancies). Notably, in these three regions, the occupancy rate ranged between 60% and 75% in 2011. In fact, of the 36 States and UTs analysed, the occupancy rate increased in 26 of them

in the past decade. And in 18 of them, the occupancy rate in 2021 was more than 100%.

Chart 2 shows the occupancy rates of select States/UTs in 2011 and 2021. The highest increase was observed in Delhi, where the occupancy rate increased from 60% to 183% – a 122% point increase. Among the major States, significant decreases were observed in Chhattisgarh and Punjab where the occupancy rate decreased by 108% points and 51% points, respectively.

Bangladeshi nationals dominate the foreign inmate population in India. Most foreign inmates are lodged in West Bengal prisons as the State shares a long border with the neighbouring country.

Chart 3 shows the foreign inmates lodged in West Bengal jails as a share of total foreign prisoners. While there is a slight dip in recent years, the share has consistently remained above 30%. The chart also shows the share of Bangladeshi undertrials among the total number of foreign undertrials lodged in Indian jails. The share has remained above the 35% mark in recent years.

When read along with the fact that the occupancy rates in West Bengal prisons have increased from 70% to 120% in the past decade, the BSF's recent decision to hand over illegal migrants to Bangladesh appears justified.

Vacancies

While on the one hand, jails are overflowing, on the other, the vacancies for prison officers are alarmingly high in some States. Also, the money spent on each prison inmate varies widely across States. **Chart 4** plots prison officer vacancy in 2019 against the amount spent per inmate in ₹ in 2019-20. In Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand over 60% of officer positions were vacant. And in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra, less than ₹20,000 was spent on each prison inmate in 2019-20.

The overcrowded and understaffed prisons of India

The tables and charts show various prison-related statistics sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau's "Prison Statistics India" reports. The imbalance between prison availability and number of inmates has caused the occupancy rate to surge from 112% to 130% in the past decade. Of the 36 States and U.T.s analysed, the occupancy rate has increased in 26 of them in the past decade. And in 18 of them the occupancy rate in 2021 was more than 100%

Chart 1: The chart shows the capacity of Indian prisons, the number of actual prisoners (right axis) and the occupancy rate (left axis) in the last decade. In chart, L= lakh

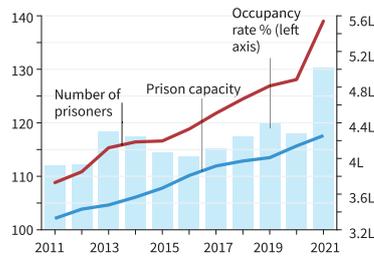
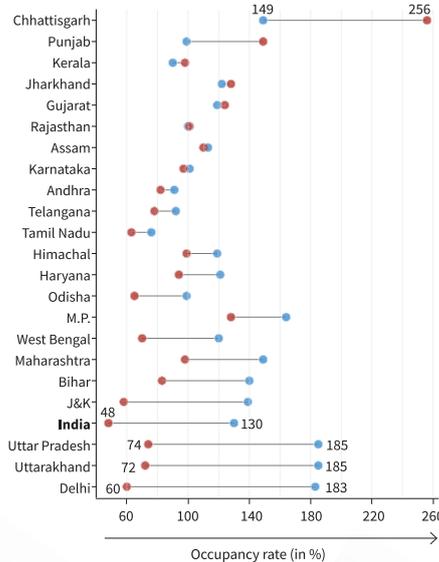


Chart 2: The chart shows the occupancy rates of select States/Union Territories in 2021 (●) and 2011 (●). Delhi had the highest increase in occupancy rate (122% points)



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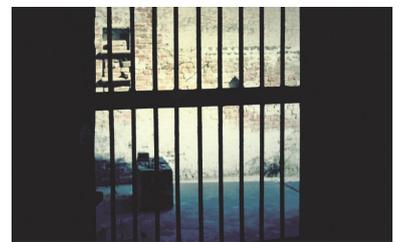


Chart 3: The chart shows the foreign inmates lodged in West Bengal jails as a share of total foreign prisoners (●) and the share of Bangladeshi undertrials among total foreign undertrials lodged in Indian jails (●)

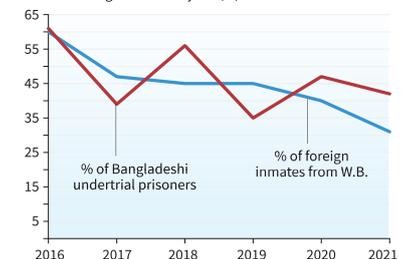
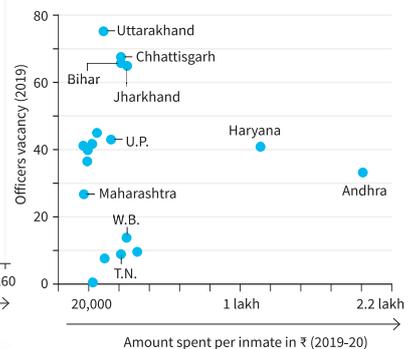


Chart 4: The chart plots the vacancies of prison officers in 2019 against the amount spent per inmate in ₹ in 2019-20. In Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand over 60% of officer positions were vacant



Battle for the Sena

The 'bow and arrow' is of more than symbolic value for the two factions

In an interim order on Monday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has allotted 'Bala-sahebanchi Shivsena' as the party name for the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, also asking it to furnish a fresh list of three symbols by Tuesday. The name and the 'bow and arrow' symbol had also been claimed by Mr. Shinde, the Maharashtra Chief Minister. The ECI's preceding decision to freeze the name and the symbol of the Shiv Sena has followed precedent – in earlier cases of splits in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Lok Janshakti Party, the commission had kept the symbols suspended until a final decision on the contesting claims of rival factions could be taken. Symbols are more than symbolism for political parties after years of mutual association. In some cases, symbols may even carry some political meaning – as in the case of the Rashtriya Janata Dal's 'lantern' and the Samajwadi Party's 'bicycle'. The Shiv Sena may have felt the 'bow and arrow' went well with its constant need to appear combative and strident. That inheritance is now the central element of the dispute between the two factions. Though the ECI has frozen it, the legal battle for the symbol and the name will continue. Both factions are marshalling facts and fiction in support of their claims and the ECI has a tough task in determining which side gets to own the Sena brand. Mr. Shinde is an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that is in power at the Centre. Who gets to inherit the legacy of Bal Thackeray has a huge bearing on the political fortunes of both.

Though there is a legal battle for the name and symbol of the Shiv Sena, the inheritance will be fundamentally settled through politics. Whichever faction will be seen as the more real Shiv Sena by the public will win the battle, regardless of who gets to keep the symbol and the name. Therefore, both factions are leaving no stone unturned to demonstrate their public support. The Dussehra rally, the most notable event on the Sena annual calendar, had two iterations this year – one addressed by Mr. Thackeray at the traditional venue of Shivaji Park, and the other by Mr. Shinde six kilometres away. The first electoral test for the factions will be on November 3, the date of the Andheri East Assembly segment by-election. The Thackeray faction will be facing off with the BJP candidate who is backed by the Shinde faction. Mr. Thackeray has inherited the name of his father and Sena founder, Bal Thackeray, but his style and character may be a bit too modest for the party's reputation. Mr. Shinde on the other hand may lack the name, but is equipped for the street battles that have made the Sena. It is unlikely that both factions will survive over the long term: the symbol might not be enough to decide the winner, but it will have more than a symbolic value for the faction still standing after the slugfest.

Still no relief for the malnourished

Since NFHS-1, Madhya Pradesh has been struggling to tackle the problem

STATE OF PLAY

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Ever since a confidential report by the Madhya Pradesh Accountant-General came to light, about “large scale fraud/misappropriation etc. in the identification of beneficiaries, production, transportation, distribution and quality control of THR [Take Home Ration]”, the government has been facing severe criticism from the Opposition and activists.

Last month, ahead of the translocation of eight cheetahs from Namibia to Kuno National Park, the Congress demanded to know the rationale behind making the translocation a mega event when about “21,000 children were malnourished and another 5,000 severely malnourished in Sheopur,” which also takes the “lead in the nutritious food scam”. Kuno is spread across Sheopur and Morena districts.

In fact, on September 17, when Project Cheetah was launched, BJP MP Pragya Thakur herself said that in the settlements she has adopted, children do not have resources for education and their parents do not have any source of livelihood. Some of these parents turn to illegal liquor trade as a consequence. And if they are arrested, their families sell the little girls to get money for their release.

The Women and Child Development Department in M.P. is under the direct supervision of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Mr. Chouhan defended his government saying the latest audit report is not final. His party claimed that the State was under Congress rule when the scam took



place. However, many continue to point fingers at Mr. Chouhan as he is the longest-serving BJP Chief Minister in terms of total time spent in office and M.P. continues to lag on most indicators.

The audit report says M.P. had the worst infant mortality rate and the third-worst maternal mortality ratio in 2017-19 despite the provision of THR under the supplementary nutrition programme. The National Family Health Survey-5 or NFHS-5 (2019-20) also shows that the infant mortality rate in M.P. was 41.3, above the national average of 35.2. Similarly, 72.7% of children aged between six and 59 months were anaemic, above the national average of 67.1%. Earlier this year, the government said that of the 65.02 lakh children in the State who were aged 0-5 years, 10.32 lakh were malnourished and 6.3 lakh were severely malnourished.

The THR comprises food grains and other items provided to address the nutritional requirements of 49.58 lakh beneficiaries – children (0.5-3 years), pregnant and lactating mothers, and out-of-school adolescent girls (11-14 years). The report said ration was being drawn in the names of 36.08 lakh out-of-school adolescent girls. As they were dropouts, these girls were deprived of mid-day meals. While THR is discontinued after the age of 14 for girls dropping out of school, nutritional

challenges remain for them. When they become mothers, the situation worsens and the next generation also faces the carry-over effects.

The audit report points to corruption as the cause of this malaise, but activists say the rot runs deep. Every now and then, anecdotal evidence emerges on the poor condition of Anganwadis and irregularities in mid-day meal distribution. On September 14, Mineral Resources Minister Brajendra Pratap Singh wrote a letter to School Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar alleging non-distribution of mid-day meals in 100 schools in his constituency of Ajaygarh in Panna for the past six months.

Experts say there is a denial of malnutrition being a major concern despite M.P. being among the worst performers since NFHS-1 (1992-93). According to them, the State tries to manage the problem by simply supplying food instead of examining the fact that malnutrition occurs as a complex interplay of various factors including gender, caste, lack of sanitation, poor maternal health, early marriages, and lack of access to land and other resources.

From a policy standpoint, centralisation and standardisation of nutrition programmes also restrict the adoption of locally available food in a large and diverse State. Nutrition-centric micro-planning allows for tweaks and better resource management in the form of linking agriculture and horticulture. Activists say monitoring can be made easier by getting communities involved. Centralisation also provides opportunities for pilferage during the transportation or monitoring processes, they add.

Building resilient mineral supply chains

In his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted the country to pursue *aatmanirbharta* in energy by focusing on clean energy technologies. Concerns over the pricing and availability of oil and gas in the wake of the Ukraine crisis continue to fuel global policy debates on energy security. However, the fragility of clean energy supply chains obscures pathways for countries to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Imported inflationary pressures through exposure to volatile oil and gas markets also pose risks to macroeconomic growth and stability, particularly for India, import-dependent for around 85% of its oil and half of its gas needs. Therefore, securing access to key minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earth metals is critical for building resilient and indigenous supply chains for clean energy technologies.

A challenging task

This is challenging on several counts. First, reserves are often concentrated in regions that are geopolitically sensitive or fare poorly from an ease of doing business perspective. Second, a portion of existing production is controlled by geostrategic competitors. For example, China wields considerable influence in cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo through direct equity investments and its Belt and Road Initiative. Third, future mine production is often tied up in offtake agreements, in advance, by buyers from other countries to cater to upcoming demand.

As a first step towards the sourcing of strategic minerals, the Indian government established Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) in 2019 with the mandate to secure mineral supply for the domestic market. Based on a CEEW study, here are suggestions that policymakers could consider to further this objective.

First, figure out the mineral requirements of the domestic



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industry. This could best be accomplished by a task force which includes the ministries of power, new and renewable energy, heavy industry, and science and technology. Creating five-year road maps with clear targets for deployment and indigenous manufacturing across clean energy applications would provide visibility to domestic investors. Further, assess the technology mix that would support this deployment. On this basis, determine the quantities of minerals necessary to support indigenous manufacturing.

Second, coordinate with the domestic industry to determine where strategic interventions by the government would be necessary for the purpose. KABIL could collaborate with industry to bolster its market intelligence capabilities for tracking global supply-side developments. Developing a granular picture of available and committed production capacities and economy-wide and sector-specific policy developments is the first step to develop an informed perspective on mineral supply. If there is adequate visibility on sourcing opportunities in conducive geographies, the private sector should be encouraged to secure minerals for its own requirements.

Third, if conducive investments opportunities don't exist, KABIL should pre-emptively sign offtake agreements with global mineral suppliers to secure future production. It could aggregate a

reliable supply of minerals for domestic requirements and sign back-to-back sales agreements with the domestic industry. Such large-scale centralised national procurement could be done at preferential terms.

Fourth, the government should jointly invest in mining assets with geostrategic partners. KABIL should make equity investments in mining jurisdictions that private sector investors may deem too risky. It should leverage government-to-government partnerships to mitigate investment risks. This could be done through joint investments with sovereign entities from geostrategic partners or private sector entities with expertise in specific geographies. The External Affairs Ministry could initiate conversations with partner countries. Establishing resilient clean energy supply chains is a priority for the Quad, for instance.

Fifth, support technologies that utilise domestically available materials. The deployment of technologies such as sodium-ion batteries could reduce requirements for sourcing minerals from beyond India's borders. While the current performance-linked incentive scheme on batteries is technologically agnostic, India could consider creating a tranche of capital to incentivise investments in technologies that rely on local raw materials. It could also propose co-development of such technologies with geostrategic partners.

Lastly, develop policies on urban mining aimed at recycling mineral inputs from deployments that have completed their useful life. These could help further reduce dependence on international sourcing. Besides Ukraine, other potential geopolitical flashpoints also exist against a backdrop of dwindling multilateral cooperation. India must act immediately and decisively to mitigate these risks to its energy security.

India must act decisively to mitigate these risks to its energy security



AP

‘Rupee may hit 84-85 per dollar by March on trade deficit, oil’

Reuters

MUMBAI

The Indian rupee could drop to 84-85 to the dollar by March due to rising crude oil prices, high trade deficit and depleting foreign exchange reserves, Elara Global Research said.

“The rupee, so far, has borne the brunt of aggressive global tightening as a hawkish (U.S.) Federal Reserve and interest rate differentials weigh on its outlook,” Garima Kapoor, an economist at Elara, said.

“Elevated trade deficit prints and the recent surge in crude oil prices add to the near-term headwinds.”

Ms. Kapoor expects the rupee to fall to 83.50 per



U.S. dollar by December, before slipping even further to 84-85 by March.

The rupee on Monday extended its recent slide to a record low of 82.6825 following the U.S. jobs report.

Higher-than-expected jobs addition in September and a dip in the unemployment rate cemented bets of another 75 bps Fed rate hike next month, pressuring the rupee.

‘Space economy may touch \$13 bn by 2025’

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Indian space economy is set to reach \$13 billion by 2025, according to a joint report prepared by EY and the Indian Space Association (ISpA), an apex industry association of space and satellite firms in the country.

According to the report, the space-launch segment would grow at a CAGR of 13%, spurred by growing private participation, latest technology adoption and low cost of launch services.

The satellite services and application segment



would form the largest share of the space economy accounting for 36% of the ecosystem by 2025.

On the country's satellite-manufacturing opportunity, EY and ISpA said that in 2020, it was \$2.1 billion. This would reach \$3.2 billion by the year 2025.

Fed ex-Chair Ben Bernanke shares Nobel with 2 other U.S. economists

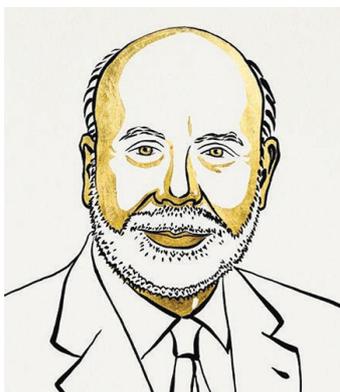
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM

Former U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, who put his academic expertise on the Great Depression to work reviving the American economy after the 2007-2008 financial crisis, won the Nobel Prize in economic sciences along with two other U.S.-based economists for their research into the fallout from bank failures.

Mr. Bernanke was recognised on Monday along with Douglas W. Diamond and Philip H. Dybvig. The Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm said the trio's research had shown "why avoiding bank collapses is vital."

With their findings in the early 1980s, the lau-



Ben Bernanke

reates laid the foundations for regulating financial markets, the panel said.

"Financial crises and depressions are kind of the worst thing that can happen to the economy," said John Hassler of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences.

"These things can happen again. And we need to have an understanding of the mechanism behind



Douglas W. Diamond

those and what to do about it. And the laureates this year provide that," he added.

Danger of bank runs

Mr. Bernanke, 68, who was Fed chair from early 2006 to early 2014 and is now with the Brookings Institution in Washington, examined the Great Depression of the 1930s, showing the danger of bank runs –



Philip H. Dybvig

when panicked people withdraw their savings – and how bank collapses led to widespread economic devastation.

Mr. Diamond, 68, based at the University of Chicago, and Mr. Dybvig, 67, who is at Washington University in St. Louis, showed how government guarantees on deposits can prevent a spiraling of financial crises.

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.