



VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

15 - NOV - 2022

FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)_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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Echoes of Kashmir's long-lost Persian inflection

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Being the official language of courts and commerce in Jammu and Kashmir, Persian adorned verbal transactions in the Valley up until 1889, when Urdu replaced it under Maharaja Pratap Singh, the third Dogra ruler. Now, an exhibition of Persian manuscripts by Khwaja Muhammad Amin Darab, poet and chronogram writer, here puts a spotlight on the fast-fading language in Kashmir. The exhibition is an attempt to revive the language in the Union Territory.

A total of 73 rare manuscripts, including 11 books, written by Darab have been put on display at the Amar Singh Club in Srinagar on Monday. Among the exhibits are a chronogram

on Neil Armstrong's landing on the moon, a *tahniyat nama* (congratulatory message) from traders of Srinagar to Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh on his accession to the throne in 1923 and a number of elegies of prominent scholars, including Muslim scholar and jurist Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri, who served as the principal of Darul Uloom, Deoband, Uttar Pradesh, prior to 1933.

"These manuscripts throw a light on Darab's way of engaging with the community, scripting invitations of prominent families, writing *marsiya* (elegy), versified *tarikhs* (dates) and inscriptions of prominent shrines and mosques in Kashmir," Saleem Beg, convener of the Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage



Khwaja Muhammad Amin Darab wrote this congratulatory messages to Maharaja Hari Singh on his coronation in 1923.

(INTACH)-Kashmir, told *The Hindu*.

Darab, who died here in 1979, is considered among the last transmitters of traditional Muslim learning, grounded in Persian *adab* or literature, in Kashmir. He was considered a mas-

ter of Persian *Qitah-i-Tarikh* (chronogram), besides *Naats* in praise of Prophet Muhammed and *Manqabats*.

At present, the remnants of Persian verses in Kashmir live in *Naats* and *Manqabats* recited in mos-

ques and shrines. Sufiana mehfils, spiritual musical nights of the Sufi order, are still dominated by Persian poetry.

"The Mughal rule in Kashmir from 1589 saw Persian language reaching its zenith. Eminent Iranian poets visited Kashmir in the 17th century including Sa'ib Tabrizi, Abu Talib Kalileen Kashani, Muhammad Jan Qudsi Mashhadhi and Mir Ilahi. All except Sa'ib died in Kashmir and were buried in Mazaar-u-Shuraa, a graveyard reserved for the poets. Among several centres of Persian learning that emerged in the Indian subcontinent following the establishment of the Muslim rule, Kashmir enjoyed a distinct position," Professor Mufti Mudasir Farooqi, an author who teaches at the Department of English, Kash-

mir University, said.

From the 14th to 19th century, Persian language emerged both as the language of administration and all kinds of writing.

"Revenue and most historical records in Kashmir still have the imprint of the Persian language that is fast fading from the scene," Mr. Beg said.

Darab's life-long interest in Kashmir's contribution to Persian is also highlighted in his meticulous documentation of the works of one of Kashmir's greatest Persianate poets, Ghani Kashmiri. Also, Darab was a respected calligrapher of *Nastaliq* script evident from handwritten wedding invitations. "This exhibition is an invitation to individuals and families across the geography to preserve and share their family archives," Mr. Beg added.

Biden, Xi look to ‘responsibly manage competition’ amid rising tensions

Both leaders agreed to resume engagement on issues such as climate change and to work together on maintaining global economic stability, but struck different positions on many of the issues currently straining ties

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday discussed ways “to responsibly manage” the intensifying competition between their two countries in their first face-to-face meeting as leaders of the world’s two biggest powers.

Both agreed to resume engagement on issues such as climate change and to work together on maintaining global economic stability. Both leaders, however, struck clearly different positions on many of the issues currently straining ties, from trade and Taiwan to human rights and Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Even the question of “competition” in the relationship elicited starkly different statements from the



Mending ties: Xi Jinping, left, and Joe Biden as they meet on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali on Monday. REUTERS

two leaders in their talks in Bali ahead of the G-20 summit. Mr. Biden said the U.S. “will continue to compete vigorously with the PRC, including by investing in sources of strength at home and aligning efforts with allies and partners around the world.” He added that “this competition should not veer into conflict” and that “the U.S. and China must manage the competition responsibly”.

Mr. Xi’s remarks reflected Beijing’s continued displeasure at the Biden administration’s emphasis on competition, and moves such as the recent export control ban on chips. He told the U.S. President that “the current state of China-U.S. relations is not in the fundamental interests of our two countries and peoples” and that “relations should not be a zero-sum game where one side out-

competes or thrives at the expense of the other.” He noted China’s opposition to “starting a trade war or a technology war, building walls and barriers, pushing for decoupling and severing supply chains.”

The two readouts from Beijing and Washington reflected both sides underlining their positions on key differences rather than any apparent resolution of them. The White House said Mr. Biden “raised Russia’s brutal war against Ukraine and Russia’s irresponsible threats of nuclear use” and said both leaders “underscored their opposition to the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.” The Chinese statement did not mention those concerns and instead quoted Mr. Xi as saying China “supports and looks forward to a resumption of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine” and

“at the same time hopes the U.S., NATO and the EU will conduct comprehensive dialogues with Russia.”

Mr. Biden also “raised concerns about PRC practices in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong, and human rights more broadly” and “raised U.S. objections to the PRC’s coercive and increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan”.

Both issues brought sharp responses from Mr. Xi, who warned that “anyone that seeks to split Taiwan from China will be violating the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation”. On human rights, he pointedly told Mr. Biden that “no country has a perfect democratic system” and “just as the United States has American-style democracy, China has Chinese-style democracy, both fit their respective national conditions.”

Mutual benefit

Both India and the U.S. stand to gain by enhancing cooperation on trade

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's visit to India last week highlights the renewed focus in the U.S. on strengthening economic ties with Asia's third-largest economy and 'one of America's indispensable partners'. The current global environment with its macroeconomic, trade and strategic challenges makes it all the more compelling for the world's two largest democracies to deepen their engagement in a way that is mutually beneficial. In Delhi, Ms. Yellen emphasised that "the United States and India share an interest in strengthening our supply chains in a world where certain governments wield trade as a geopolitical weapon". The U.S. was particularly keen to minimise its vulnerability to supply-chain disruptions and was therefore pursuing a strategy of 'friendshoring', with India, a key element in the plan to cut its reliance on 'countries that present geopolitical and security risks' to the supply chain. Citing the Ukraine invasion and asserting that Moscow had 'weaponised' its supply of natural gas to Europe, as well as the challenges of China's dominance in the production of products such as solar panels, she underlined Washington's keenness to nurture local partners in developing countries to help mitigate over-concentration on select suppliers.

Ms. Yellen's visit also highlights the opportunities and challenges in the bilateral economic relationship, especially as the current dispensation in Washington moves to mend the ruptures caused by the Trump administration's antagonistic decisions on trade including the withdrawal of duty-free access to Indian exporters under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) as well as a 2020 decision to put India back on the U.S. Treasury's 'Monitoring List' over its currency practices. The U.S. is still to reinstate the GSP benefit and exporters on both sides still face challenges, notwithstanding the fact that the U.S. is one of India's largest trading partners. In fact, the International Trade Administration of the U.S. notes in its investment climate summary on India that "new protectionist measures, including strict enforcement and potential expansion of data localisation measures, increased tariffs... and Indian-specific standards not aligned with international standards effectively closed off producers from global supply chains and restricted the expansion in bilateral trade and investment". With India set to take up the reins of the G-20 presidency, New Delhi has a chance to steer the global economic and trade agenda towards greater equity, including on climate change, especially given Ms. Yellen's vocal assurance of U.S. backing. Both sides stand much to gain by enhancing mutual trust and cooperation, particularly on trade.

Climate change debates stall while the Earth heats up

With carbon emissions rising, temperatures are increasing, ice is thinning, oceans are getting warmer and sea levels are going up

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The climate summit in Egypt has entered its final week, but news reports indicate that progress has been less than satisfactory. No agreement has been reached yet on the 'loss and damage' fund, to help vulnerable countries cope with the damage caused by floods, drought and other climate events, according to Reuters. After much debate, the plan to give immediate aid to victims of climate disasters was finalised on Monday. However, some countries with limited resources have expressed concern about the scheme's focus on insurance as it will lead to steeper premiums.

The debate on carbon offset credits has been slow. Such credits allow countries or companies to pay others to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Countries have already pushed to 2023 the decision on which kinds of projects can produce credits - from solar farms to projects to avoid deforestation.

According to an AP report, India surprised some nations last week by pushing for a deal to phase down all fossil fuels - oil and gas as well as coal - rather than just focusing on coal, which is what countries agreed upon at last year's meeting. Oil and gas-exporting nations, including the U.S., may oppose this idea because it could hurt demand for their fossil fuels. The climate talks are expected to end on Friday, but they may continue into the weekend.

Meanwhile, a report released at the climate conference shows that emissions from coal, gas and oil are set to reach record levels by the end of 2022. While heated debates on the ways of tackling climate change rage on, the Earth is heating up at a faster rate now as higher levels of greenhouse gasses are being released into the atmosphere. This is causing ice to

melt, oceans to become warmer and sea levels to rise.

Chart 1 shows the annual CO₂ emissions by regions in billion tonnes. Data are sourced from Our World in Data. There is no sign of a peak yet, with emissions rising every year. China and the U.S. are the two biggest polluters. While India's share is on the rise, the European Union's contribution is waning.

Due to the rise in emissions, global atmospheric CO₂ concentration has continued its near-vertical increase, which started with the industrial revolution (**Chart 2**). Global atmospheric CO₂ concentration has reached 419 parts per million.

The rise in CO₂ concentration has continued to cause a rise in global surface temperature. **Chart 3** shows the change in global surface temperature compared to the long-term average between 1951 and 1980. According to NASA, "nineteen of the hottest years have occurred since 2000, with the exception of 1998. The year 2020 tied with 2016 for the hottest year on record since record keeping began in 1880".

Antarctica is losing ice mass due to increasing temperatures. **Chart 4** shows Antarctica's ice mass measurement by NASA satellites. Since 2002, Antarctica's ice mass has varied at the rate of 151 billion metric tonnes per year.

Oceans too have been getting warmer because of rising temperatures. **Chart 5** plots ocean heat content changes since 1955. Each data point in the chart represents a five-year average. The temperature of oceans has warmed up by 337 zettajoules since 1955.

With ice sheets melting, there is now more water in the oceans. And the warming of oceans is causing water to expand, leading to a rise in sea levels. **Chart 6** plots the sea level change in mm. Since January 1993, the global sea level has increased by 102.5 mm.

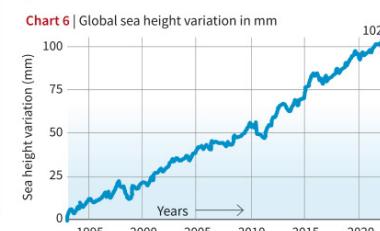
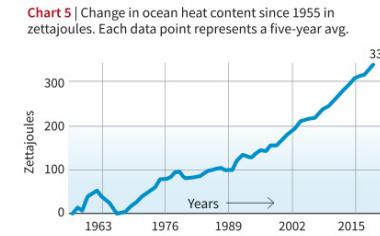
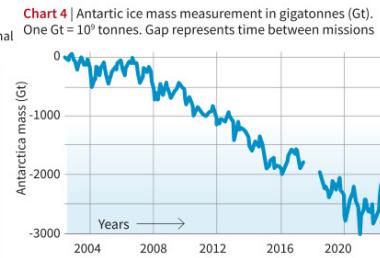
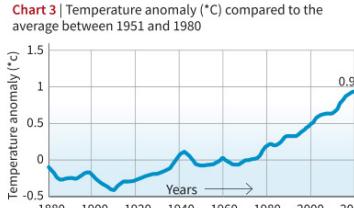
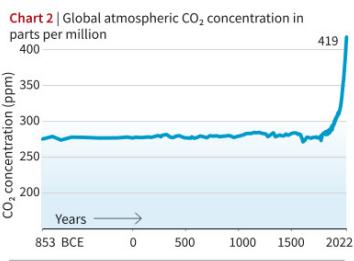
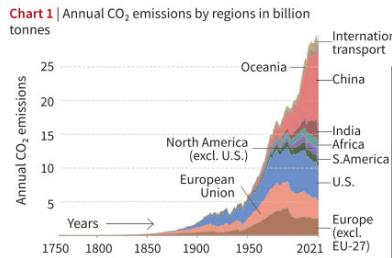
With inputs from AP, AFP and Reuters

Climate change waits for none

The charts are sourced from Our World In Data and NASA. The charts show a chain of events: CO₂ emissions lead to a rise in temperature, which in turn causes ice to melt, oceans to become warmer and leads to an increase in sea levels



Vanishing act: Hudson Bay freezes over in winter and thaws in summer. Images show the decrease in ice over the course of 16 days. During the thaw, polar bears travel over the slowly melting sea ice to hunt. The area has lost about a third of the polar bear population since the 1980s, apparently because declining summer sea ice has given them less opportunity to feed. NASA



Modi in Bali for G-20 meet, to focus on global issues

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Bali in Indonesia on Monday to participate in the G-20 summit. In a pre-departure statement, Mr. Modi said he would take up issues of “global concern” at the leadership-level summit.

“During the Bali summit, I will have extensive discussions with other G-20 leaders on key issues of global concern, such as reviving global growth, food & energy security, environment, health, and digital transformation,” the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to be in Indonesia till November 16.

Centre seeks time from SC in Places of Worship Act case

CJI-led Bench ordered the govt. to file its affidavit clarifying its views by Dec. 12; Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta told the court that 'detailed consultations' are needed at a 'particular level'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday sought more time from the Supreme Court to clarify its stand on the validity of the Places of Worship Act, saying "detailed consultations" are needed at a "particular level". The 1991 Act protects the identity and character of religious places as they were on August 15, 1947.

A Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud ordered the Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, to file its affidavit clarifying its views by December 12. The court agreed to list the case for hearing in the first week of January. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for peti-



tioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, said the government had sought similar adjournments in the case twice before.

On October 10, the court asked the Centre whether a Constitution Bench judgment in the Ram Janmabhoomi case had already settled the question of validity of the Act. The Ayodhya judgment had found that the 1991 Act spoke "to our history and to the fu-

Parliament has mandated in no uncertain terms that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments to oppress the present and the future
SUPREME COURT

ture of the nation... In preserving the character of places of public worship, Parliament has mandated in no uncertain terms that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments to oppress the present and the future".

Mr. Mehta had ventured his personal opinion that the remarks in the Ayodhya judgment about the 1991 Act would not preclude the court from exa-

mining the validity of the statute now. "That [Ayodhya judgment] was given in a different context and may not cover the issue here," Mr. Mehta gave his opinion. Mr. Dwivedi had agreed that the comments in the Ayodhya verdict was merely *obiter dicta*.

Advocates P.B. Suresh, Vipin Nair and Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for petitioner Vishwa Bhadra Pujari Purohit Maha-sangh, said the validity of the Act was not in question before the Constitution Bench in the Ayodhya case. A slew of petitions has been filed in the Supreme Court against the Act, contending it has illegally fixed a retrospective cut-off date. The objective of these petitions is to set right a "historical wrong".

Where no child is left behind

It is alarming that India ranks 132 out of 191 countries in the 2021 Human Development Index, which is a measure of a nation's health, average income, and education.

The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 states, "A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be set up... on priority... for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools, identifying state-wise targets and goals to be achieved by 2025, and closely tracking and monitoring progress of the same." How do we achieve this ambitious objective?

Efforts over the years

Ever since the 1990 World Declaration on Education for All at the Jomtien Conference, concerted efforts have been made to bring all children to school. Even before the conference, in 1987, the Shiksha Karmi Project was started in schools to tackle teacher absenteeism in remote villages in Rajasthan. Active involvement of the local communities was a crucial part of the project. By supporting and training local persons, the project succeeded in creating teachers. The premise was to focus on the basics of teaching through practice. Unfortunately, this lesson is given up when we work with regular teachers.

The Bihar Education Project was introduced in the early 1990s to give a fillip to the universalisation of primary education. It developed a 10-day residential in-service training for teachers, called the Ujala module. This proved to be a challenge as communities viewed understaffed and dilapidated schools only as election booths.

The Lok Jumbish, or Peoples Movement for Education for All, was launched in 1992 in Rajasthan. By providing a thrust to innovations and emphasising civil society partnership, this programme demonstrated successes, especially in tribal



Amarjeet Sinha

is a retired civil servant. Views are personal

districts. However, the inertia of the mainstream continued to reign supreme.

In 1993, the Supreme Court ruled in *Unni Krishnan v. State Of Andhra Pradesh* that the right to education for children up to age 14 is central and fundamental. The District Primary Education Programme was started in 1994, to universalise and transform the quality of primary education. This too remained a project as Directorates did not own the initiatives fully.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, aimed at the universalisation of elementary education, was launched in 2001. While it has made a difference to school participation and has brought about improvement in school infrastructure, uniforms, toilet access, water and textbook availability, classroom processes still remain a challenge.

We have still not figured out a systemic way of recruiting good teachers and establishing teacher development institutions. The recruitment of teachers, educators and administrators has to become a priority if we want to make a difference. The Central, State and local governments need to transform governance to ensure that everyone delivers their best. We should ensure that there are direct funds to schools, no teacher vacancies, fewer non-teaching tasks, and a vibrant community and panchayat connect for accountability.

Giving communities power

While many efforts have indeed been made, we still need to work on community connect and parental involvement. Panchayats and community collectives with very high social capital, such as women self-help groups, can help ensure that local households own the initiative. Panchayats can leverage resources. Communities can both enable and discipline teachers if funds, functions and functionaries are their responsibility. The Panchayati Raj, Rural and Urban Development

To achieve the objective of foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools, we need to especially focus on community connects and parental involvement

Ministries can work on community connect and make learning outcomes a responsibility of local governments. Providing decentralised funds to schools with the community overseeing such funds is the best starting point towards achieving the NEP objective.

It is poor governance that affects the effectiveness of face-to-face or digital teacher development initiatives like Nishtha. Pratham's Read India campaign and the Azim Premji Foundation's large-scale efforts to improve government schools by providing district-/block-level support to schools and teachers also suffer due to poor governance of schools and teachers.

There are many innovations in the civil society space, such as by Gyan Shala, Saksham, the Central Square Foundation, Room to Read, and Akshara, but many of them are not initiatives aimed at improving mass education. The Sampark Foundation provides some answers to the aforementioned challenges. The Foundation uses technology for teacher development. It uses audio battery-operated sound boxes and innovative teaching learning materials. It has also launched a TV, which helps teachers use lesson plans, content videos, activity videos and worksheets to make classes more interactive and joyful. While it is too early to comment on the success of these initiatives, these appear to be sound methods to overcome teacher incompetency through the use of technology.

The time between preschool and Class 3 can be transformational for individuals. It is time for everyone from the Panchayat level to the Prime Minister to ensure that all children are in school and are learning by 2025. Foundational literacy and numeracy are necessary to prepare a generation of learners who will secure for India high rates of economic progress and human well-being. The time to act is now.

Transfer plea on Twitter account case dismissed

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition filed by senior advocate Sanjay Hegde to transfer his case challenging the permanent suspension of his Twitter account for allegedly re-tweeting two posts from the Delhi High Court to the top court.

A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah also declined to intervene against the Karnataka High Court's dismissal of his plea seeking intervention in the petition filed by Twitter Inc challenging a series of blocking orders issued by the Union government.

"No case for transfer of cases is made out... Transfer petition stands dismissed. We are of the opinion that let there be one decision by one High Court so that in future, this court would have advantage of at least one High Court judgment," the Bench said.

The senior lawyer had approached the Delhi High Court in 2019 for directions to the Centre to lay down guidelines under the Information Technology Act to ensure that censorship on social media was carried out according to the Constitution.

The Delhi High Court has currently seized of Mr. Hegde's case and is likely to hear the matter on December 19.

The shape of the Indian economic pie must change

The Supreme Court of India's decision to support the economically weaker sections (EWS) quota raises fundamental questions about remedies for social and economic discrimination. Who is being discriminated against? What is the nature of discrimination? Which remedies are justifiable? Reservations in jobs and education are legal remedies. Subsidies (and 'freebies') are material compensations for deprivations caused by social and economic discrimination. The Court has been approached on both matters.

A fundamental question arising with an EWS quota on top of other quotas is that the total numbers of people discriminated against has crossed 50%. Now, a majority is complaining about discrimination. The question before the Court was whether opportunities can be reserved for economically weaker persons regardless of their societal status whereas the Constitution allows affirmative action only for historically disadvantaged castes and communities. When a majority demands affirmative action, courts are expected to judge whether to rob Peter to pay Paul.

There is a chasm

Clearly, the shape of the economy is distorted. Decent jobs and social security are available to too few; good education and health care is not available to all. Until the pattern of economic growth changes to generate sufficient employment and the Government can deliver social security to all, issues about fair distribution of opportunities and the need for subsidies will become harder for the justice system and the Government to resolve.

Economic inequalities have been increasing in all countries, even the rich ones. Governments are struggling to meet conflicting demands for "ease of doing business" for capital, and "ease of earning and living" for citizens. Populism is on the rise. On the left, populism has a "socialist" voice: it demands rights for all workers, across races and religions, who are unable to earn enough and have little social security. On the right, populism wants to protect racial and religious majorities from immigrants and minorities competing with them for limited economic opportunities.

Thomas Piketty describes, in *Capital and*



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'Transforming
Systems: Why the
World Needs a New
Ethical Toolkit' and
Chairman, HelpAge
International

Ideology, how societies were historically divided into three classes – a clerical and religious class, a noble and warrior class, and a common, labouring class. He explains how the merchant and financial class later emerged and became dominant. Piketty has researched European societies mostly. The Hindu caste system divided work into four broad categories. Those who did the manual work were one caste. Those who traded and did business, another. Those who ruled, carried arms, and imposed order, a third. And those with superior knowledge, who would not sully themselves with manual work or making money, a superior caste. People born into their castes were skilled in their vocations. Society and economy worked harmoniously because aspirations to change castes and vocations were pushed into the afterlife.

Piketty says, "Every human society must justify its inequalities: unless reasons for them are found, the whole political and social edifice stands in danger of collapse. Modern inequality is said to be just because it is the result of a freely chosen process in which everyone enjoys equal access to the market and to property and automatically benefits from the wealth accumulated by the wealthiest individuals, who are also the most enterprising, deserving, and useful. Nearly everywhere a gaping chasm divides official meritocratic discourse from the reality of access to education and wealth for society's least favored class."

Money as master

The money-owning class was despised in many cultures as mere money lenders sucking value out of others' work. The financing of wars gave this class power over governments. International trade, the driving force for the economic power of European nations (supported with armed force), provided another avenue for growth of the financial class. After the U.S. Civil War, Abraham Lincoln dreamed of a future when "Money will cease to be the master and become the servant of humanity and democracy will rise superior to the money power". Lincoln's dream was buried in the latter half of the 20th century. With the victory of monetarism (and Friedman) over welfarism (and Keynes), money became the master. Central banks with responsibility to look after the health of money, acquired

independence from elected governments whose responsibility is the health of citizens.

Changing the rules of the game

Mariana Mazzucato describes the rise of the financial class in *The Value of Everything*. The role of banks and financial institutions was to provide lubrication to the wheels of the real economy, rather than making large profits themselves. By the 21st century, production of the lubricant seems to have become the purpose of financial institutions. Innovative ways of making money from money also became the fastest way to increase personal wealth. Inequalities have increased because a much larger share of wealth is sucked into the financial sector.

The rules of the economic game are now set by the wealthiest. They influence governments' policies the most. The terms of trade between money and labour are set in their favour. They can determine the wages they will pay workers and prices for small enterprises. Common citizens who earn with their personal labour, as gig workers, small farmers, and informal entrepreneurs, etc., live precariously. Formal jobs in large enterprises, where workers could unite to demand fair treatment from employers, are becoming fewer with the changing shape of the modern, post-industrial, economy.

India has the largest number of working age persons in the world seeking work and better incomes. The Indian economy also has among the lowest employment elasticities (that is the number of jobs created with each unit of GDP growth). India is becoming one of the most unequal societies in the world – socially and economically. The country's problem of dividing the economic pie to rectify both historical social and new economic discrimination cannot be resolved merely by judging whose needs are greater.

The shape of the economic pie must change so that the majority benefits much faster than a tiny minority on top. This will require reforms of institutions and economic ideology. The Government must listen and respond to the needs of common citizens more than to big business lobbies. Ease of living for the majority must drive government policies more than policies for attracting big investments with ease of doing business.

The majority needs to benefit much faster than a tiny minority on top, which will require reforms of institutions and economic ideology and the Government listening to the needs of common citizens

Retail inflation cools to 6.77% in October from 7.41% in September

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

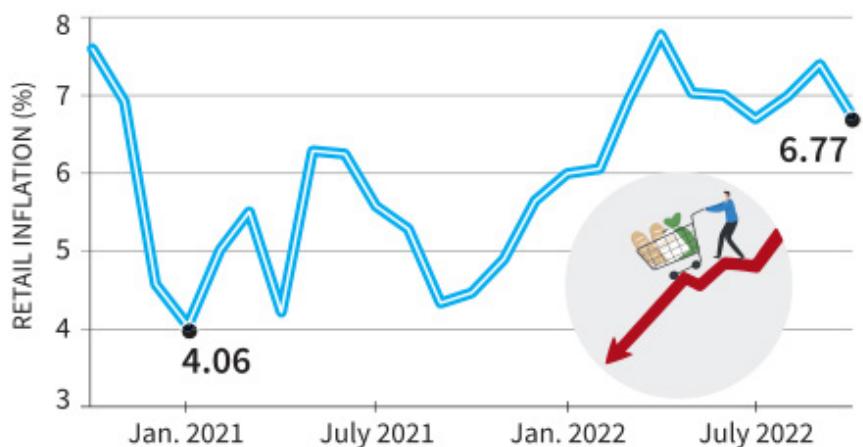
India's retail inflation cooled to 6.77% in October from 7.41% in September, slipping below the 7% mark for the first time in three months and only the second time since April's eight-year high mark of 7.8%.

This is the 10th month in a row that inflation has been over the 6% upper tolerance threshold mandated for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The last time consumer price inflation was below the 7% mark was in July, at 6.71%.

Economists expect the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee, which earlier this month deliberated on explaining to the government its inability to meet the inflation target for three successive quarters, to continue increasing interest rates in December,

Cooling down

India's retail inflation eased to 6.77% in October from 7.41% in September. Retail inflation stayed above the RBI's upper threshold of 6% for the 10th consecutive month



but at a lower pace than the 50-basis point ((100 basis points equal one percentage point) increases seen in its last three reviews..

Rural consumers continued to face 7% inflation in October, slightly lower than the 7.6% in September, while urban India consumers' price rise eased to 6.5% from 7.3% in the previous month.

Inflation measured by the Consumer Food Price Index moderated from 8.6% in September to 7% in October, but rural households faced 7.3% inflation while the same rate was 6.5% for their urban counterparts.

CONTINUED ON

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WHOLESALE INFLATION

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Wholesale inflation slipped to single digit at 8.4% in Oct.

Base effect, cooling commodity prices helped; this is the fifth successive month of wholesale inflation moderating since it hit a record high of 16.63% in May; food price inflation eased to 6.5%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's wholesale price inflation slipped below 10% for the first time in 19 months this October, when it eased to 8.4% from 10.7% in September, thanks to base effects and cooling commodity prices. This is the fifth successive month of wholesale inflation moderating since it hit a record high of 16.63% in May.

The inflation rate in October 2021 was 13.8% and was even higher at 14.9% in November last year, so eco-

Funded through the University Grants Commission (UGC), universities are all subject to a very strict regulatory regime. Abiding by UGC

Pace lets up

This is the first time in 19 months that wholesale inflation has slipped below 10%

- The inflation rate in October 2021 was 13.8% and was even higher at 14.9% in November last year
- Economists hence expect the base effect to intensify and bring headline wholesale inflation down to between 6% and 7% in November
- Fuel and power inflation dropped to 23.2% in October from 32.6% in September



- Going forward, some food articles could show a sharp uptick in prices, particularly vegetables and cereals

base effect to intensify and bring headline wholesale inflation down to between

rules and regulations is regressive

Wholesale food price inflation eased further in October to 6.5% from 8.1% in

The NEP regards academic and administrative autonomy essential for making higher education multi-disciplinary, and that teacher and

in manufactured goods dropped to 4.4% from 6.3% a month earlier. Fuel and power inflation dropped to 23.2% in October from 32.6% in September.

'Food price uptick'

"Wholesale inflation will continue to moderate on the back of the base effect as well as softening of global commodity prices," said Bank of Baroda economist Jahnavi.

However, some food articles would tend to show a sharp uptick in prices, particularly vegetables and cereals, while pulses may

education farther away from excellence.

The views expressed are personal

Retail inflation cools to 6.77% in October

The Finance Ministry attributed the significant decline in retail inflation in October mainly to a decrease in food price inflation, driven significantly by “the decline in prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses and oils & fats”.

“Prices of commodities like crude oil, iron ore & steel sobered in global markets. This, coupled with measures taken by the government to rationalise tariff structures of major inputs to augment domestic supply, helped to keep cost-push inflation in consumer items under control,” it said in a statement. The impact of trade-related measures taken by the government on wheat and rice to keep domestic supplies steady and curb the rise in prices, is expected to be felt more significantly in the coming months, the Ministry said.

“Rural India has witnessed higher inflation as food prices are higher here and have a higher share in the basket,” explained Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis. Food prices remain a risk to the inflation trajectory as vegetable prices and cereals have increased and don’t show signs of moderating right now, he added.

On a sequential basis, the Consumer Price Index was 0.8% higher in October compared with September, while the Consumer Food Price Index was up 1.1%.

Trade with India doubled to \$2 bn in past two years: Norway envoy

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Bilateral trade between India and Norway has doubled to \$2 billion over the past two years, Norway's Ambassador to India, Hans Jacob Frydenlund, said on Monday.

Speaking to journalists at *The Hindu*'s office here, Mr. Frydenlund elaborated on Norway's interests in climate investments, clean energy and ocean technology, among others. He was in the city to take part in the silver jubilee celebration of the National Institute of Ocean Technology.



Hans Jacob Frydenlund

Norway would invest \$1 billion via its climate investment fund over five years worldwide, he said, adding that the quantum of funds that would be invested in India would depend on the projects. "We are quite confident that a substantial part of the in-

vestments" will find its way into Indian projects.

"India [has] large potential for solar [energy]. Most of the investment has been in solar," he added.

To a query on Norway's interest in offshore wind energy, Mr. Frydenlund said his country was working with the National Institute of Wind Energy, and many companies were active here. The difference between Norway and India when it came to wind energy was that only Tamil Nadu and Gujarat had stable wind that helped make projects viable, he added.

Asked about former

Norwegian peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Erik Solheim, being back in Sri Lanka as an international climate adviser, Mr. Frydenlund said Mr. Solheim was not an official representative of Norway and was acting in his own capacity.

On whether Norway would be interested in being a mediator for ethnic and other issues in Sri Lanka, Mr. Frydenlund said, "We don't move in without being invited from both sides, we don't consider it without being invited from both sides. Because anything else would be extremely difficult."

Atomic energy, hydrogen in India's net zero plan

India "aspires" to maximise the use of electric vehicles, with ethanol blending to reach 20% by 2025 (it is currently 10%) and a "strong shift" to public transport for passenger and freight traffic. India will also focus on improving energy efficiency by the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, the National Hydrogen Mission, increasing electrification, enhancing material efficiency, and recycling and ways to reduce emissions.

India's forest and tree cover is a net carbon sink absorbing 15% of carbon dioxide emissions in 2016, and the country is on track to fulfilling its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitment of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sequestration in forest and tree cover by 2030, the document notes.

The NDCs are voluntary commitments by countries to reduce emissions by a fixed number relative to a date in the past to achieve the long-term goal of climate agreements of preventing global temperature rising beyond 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Thus, India's most updated NDC commits to ensuring half its electricity is derived from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and reducing the emissions intensity by 45% below 2005 levels by 2030. The LT-LEDS are qualitative in nature and are a requirement emanating from the 2015 Paris Agreement whereby countries must explain how they will transition their economies beyond achieving near-term NDC targets, and work towards the larger climate objective of cutting emissions by 45% by 2030 and achieve net zero around 2050. This is what, scientists say, offers the best chance of keeping temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The document, however, also underlined that this transition entailed costs ranging in "trillion dollars" that the developed countries, responsible for the existing carbon accumulation, ought to be making good. "The transition to low carbon development pathway will entail several costs pertaining to the development of new technologies, new infrastructure, and other transaction costs. While several estimates exist, varying across studies, they all fall generally in the range of trillions of dollars by 2050. Provision of climate finance by developed countries will play a very significant role and needs to be considerably enhanced, in the form of grants and concessional loans, ensuring scale, scope and speed, predominantly from public sources, in accordance with the principles of the UNFCCC," the document noted.

Project to track small fishing vessels now makes progress

Third edition of the pan-India coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' will begin today; it was started after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

A delayed project to install transponders on small fishing vessels, under 20 metres in length, as part of coastal security measures instituted after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks is making progress, with a project under way in Tamil Nadu.

In a related development, the third edition of the 'pan-India' coastal defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' is scheduled to be held on November 15 and 16, the Navy said on Monday. The exercise was conceptualised in 2018 to validate various measures that have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since '26/11'.

The process of installing transponders on sub-20 metre boats, commenced with a pilot project in Tamil Nadu for 5,000 vessels, is under way, Vice-Admiral Ashok Kumar (retd), National Maritime Security Coordinator, said. To allay the concerns of fishermen, the transponders with positioning navigation systems have been modified into a two-way communication system, he said. There are close to three



Safety measures: An automatic identification system was made compulsory for all vessels over 20 metres in length. AFP

lakh registered fishing vessels, of which around 2.5 lakh are under 20 metres, he added.

An Automatic Identification System (AIS) was made compulsory for all vessels above 20 metres after the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai. The decision was taken by the National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, set up to look into issues related to coastal security. However, for vessels under 20 metres, the process has been delayed for several reasons.

Verification and monitoring of a large number of

fishing vessels in India has been greatly eased by the creation of the online ReALCraft (Registration and Licensing of Fishing Craft), the Indian Navy said in written response to questions from *The Hindu*.

"The exercise will be undertaken along the entire 7,516-km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and will involve all the coastal States and Union Territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities," the Navy said.

The exercise is a build-up towards the major Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise.

SC says forced conversions may affect national security, freedom of religion

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said religious conversions by means of force, allurement or fraud may "ultimately affect the security of the nation and freedom of religion and conscience of citizens", while directing the Centre to "step in" and clarify what it intends to do to curb compulsory or deceitful religious conversions.

"There may be freedom of religion, but there may not be freedom of religion by forced conversion... This is a very serious issue. Everybody has the right to

choose their religion, but not by forced conversion or by giving temptation," a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and Hima Kohli said.

The court was hearing a petition by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, which said a special law should be enacted against forced conversions or the act should be incorporated as an offence in the Indian Penal Code. Mr. Upadhyay has alleged "mass conversions" of socially and economically underprivileged people, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

The court ordered the

Centre to file an affidavit on or before November 22, detailing what actions it proposed to take to curb forced conversions, and scheduling the case for hearing on November 28. It said such conversions were reported more in poor and tribal areas.

'Practice rampant'

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, said forced conversions were "rampant" in tribal areas. "Giving of rice, wheat, clothes, etc., etc., can never be a ground for asking a person to change his conscience, or bargain on my fundamental right to reli-

gion," he said.

"But the difficulty is, who will file the complaint?... the State concerned may not file also... That is why the Union must step in," Justice Shah said.

"In many cases, the victim would not know he has been the subject matter of a criminal offence... He would say that he was helped," Mr. Mehta intervened.

The court said the Union now had to make "very serious and sincere efforts to stop forced conversions".

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'Forced conversion may affect national security'

Mr. Mehta said the word "propagate" had come up for consideration in the Constituent Assembly debates. "It was decided that the term did not mean forcible conversions," the law officer said.

He submitted that the court had dealt with the Acts passed by Madhya Pradesh and Odisha against forcible conversion and had held that "freedom of conscience of every person includes freedom not to be allowed to change his conscience and convert..." The Solicitor-General was referring to the 1997 judgment by a Constitution Bench in *Rev. Stainislaus vs State of Madhya Pradesh*, which had held that the word "propagate" in Article 25 did not give "the right to convert another person to one's own religion, but to transmit or spread one's religion by an exposition of its tenets". The Constitution Bench had also held there was "no fundamental right to convert another person to one's own religion".

"If a person purposely undertakes the conversion of another person to his religion, as distinguished from his effort to transmit or spread the tenets of his religion, that would impinge on the 'freedom of conscience' guaranteed to all the citizens of the country alike," the 1977 judgment had reasoned. Article 25(1) of the Constitution says that "subject to public order, morality and health... all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion".

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-drawal 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 India 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 thereof; 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;

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.