



# VEDHIK

## DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

04 - 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.

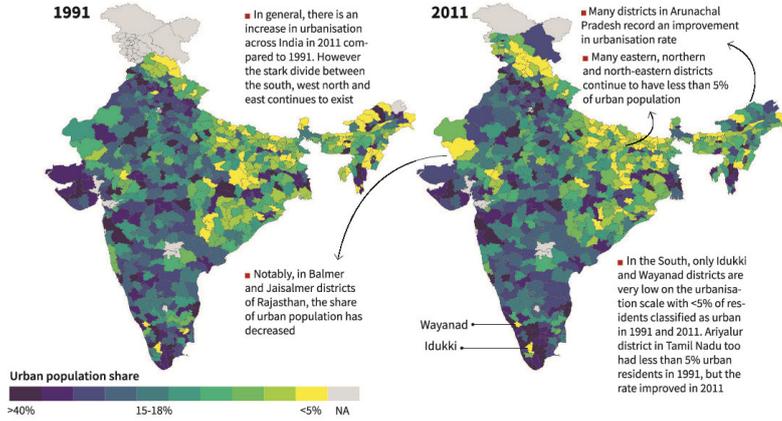
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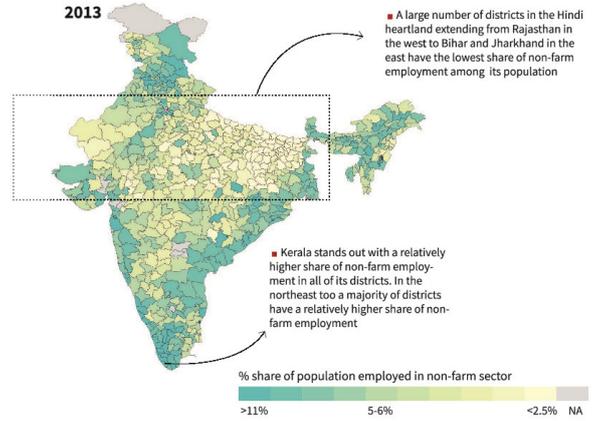
# Mapping India's urbanisation rate, consumption and employment patterns

Census figures and night-time luminosity data capture the stark divide between India's southern & western regions – more urbanised with relatively higher number of people employed in non-farm sectors and the northern & eastern regions – dominated by rural population with most engaged in agriculture. The data was sourced from Development Data Lab\*

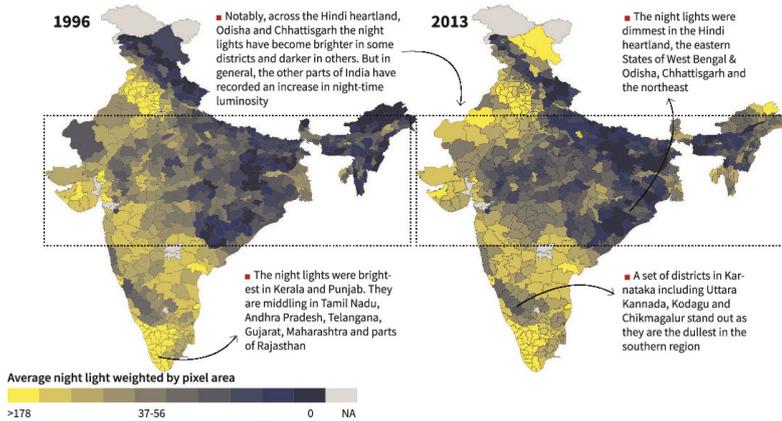
**URBANISATION** | The maps show the share of urban population in a district. The lighter the colour of a district, the lower the urban share. The darker the colour, the higher the share. The 2011 map brings out a pattern – urban population is much higher in the south, west and parts of north. Whereas in U.P., eastern India including Bihar & Jharkhand and some parts of northeast, the share is relatively much less



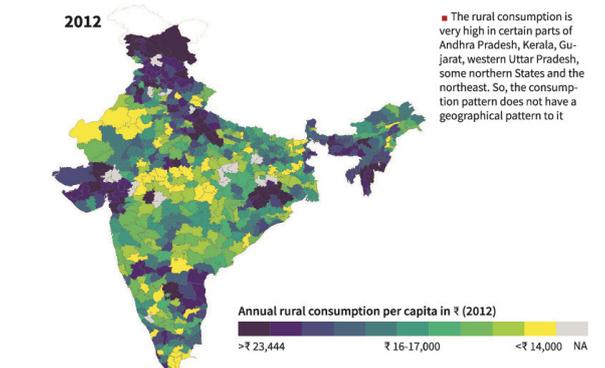
**NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT** | The map plots the % share employed in non-farm sector (2013 economic census) to population in a district (2011 census). The non-farm employment share is much higher along the coastal districts, in H.P. and parts of the northeast. It was the lowest in U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand, M.P. and Rajasthan



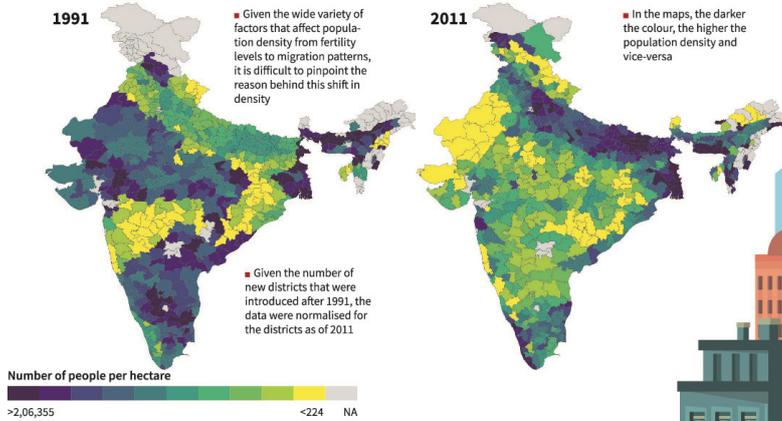
**NIGHT LIGHTS** | The maps show night-time luminosity or night lights measured using satellite images. The data is collated based on images shot by satellites that are part of the U.S. Air Force Defense Meteorological Satellite Program. In the maps, the lighter the colour, the higher the night time luminosity and vice-versa. Night lights are a good proxy for urbanisation and industrialisation in a region



**CONSUMPTION** | The map shows mean annual rural household consumption per capita in 2012 (in ₹). The consumption levels are collated based on India Human Development Survey and Socio Economic and Caste Census. The darker the district, the higher the consumption and vice-versa



**POPULATION DENSITY** | The maps show the district-wise population density (number of people per hectare) in 1991 and 2011. Stark differences can be observed between the two years. The population density decreases substantially in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and increases in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Kerala



\*Development Data Lab works with governments and private firms to generate insights



# China's 20th Party Congress over, the road ahead

China's 20th Party Congress concluded with hardly any surprises, and a predetermined script was implemented without any hitch. Xi Jinping was anointed President for an unprecedented third term, and all six of his acolytes made it to the powerful Politburo Standing Committee. Li Qiang is widely expected to take over as Prime Minister from Li Keqiang, who was unceremoniously dropped from the standing committee. Mr. Xi's words while introducing the new leadership – that they would not be daunted by 'high winds, choppy waters and even dangerous storms' – reflected the prevailing mood at the Congress.

## 'Core' status reinforced

The outcome can be summed up in the following words – maintaining the Party's grip on power trumps all other considerations. Mr. Xi's 'core' status has been further reinforced, and he is now set to eclipse Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin, placing him next only to Mao. Mr. Xi's Thought on 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era' will be the Chinese Communist Party/Communist Party of China (CCP)'s guiding philosophy for the future. National security would be the key factor dictating all aspects of governance. A common theme that permeated the proceedings was affirmation of the CCP's historical mission. There was only a single narrative, crafted in a manner that extolled Mr. Xi's role in revitalisation of the CCP, further enhancing his cult status. Unequivocally rejected was an earlier Xi thesis of a 'Community of Common Destiny' which has been replaced by the belief that international public opinion was currently anti-China and also included an incitement to overthrow the existing Communist regime. To counter such disruptive philosophies, it had become necessary for the CCP to emphasise ideological coherence and internal discipline. This would help to avoid the danger of a 'Soviet style collapse' caused by ideological laxity, corruption, divisions within the party and attempts by outsiders to foment unrest.

In the realm of geo-politics, the Congress declared that the objective is to effectively reduce the authority and the power of the United States. This was especially true of China's neighbourhood, essentially the Indo-Pacific. Also to be eschewed by China were the vague and contradictory goals of the past, made at a time when China sought to make rapid progress in several directions.

Implicit in the proceedings was the belief that China was being deliberately denied access, and the ability, to import certain vital technological items, and in this regard, of being a victim of major international conspiracies. Earlier pragmatism was replaced by concerns about



**M.K. Narayanan**

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

Notwithstanding the repeated use of certain words such as 'security' and 'military' and a cementing of Xi Jinping's power and authority, what China is likely to do in the post-Party Congress period remains an enigma: India needs to be cautious

western pressures to derail China's progress.

The Party Congress is indicative of the fact that Mr. Xi is much more than a mere party 'restorer', and that he adheres to the belief that the CCP's role is central to Chinese society and critical to determining China's role in world affairs. Belief in the CCP's historical mission was crucial to avoid the kind of catastrophic mistakes made by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, leading to its demise.

In terms of China's world view, the Party Congress reiterated that the goal is to make China a modern socialist power by 2035, boost per capita income to middle income levels, and modernise the armed forces. By 2049, the 100th anniversary of the Peoples' Republic of China, China is determined to lead the world in terms of composite national strength and international influence. It was also evident that Mr. Xi enjoys wide, if not overwhelming, support within the Party elite, enabling him to infuse a renewed sense of purpose alongside tightening of controls over it. While many Chinese do not want to set the clock back, there are quite a few, however, who resent Mr. Xi's overweening emphasis on the criticality of the Communist Party in every sphere, as also disruption of the traditional power structure. Hence, it may not be all plain sailing in the period ahead.

## Implications for the world

What does the Party Congress herald for the world, including India? Notwithstanding the repeated use of certain words such as security and military, what China is likely to do in the post-Party Congress period remains an enigma. Mr. Xi today exercises more power and authority, is perhaps better positioned in the hierarchy than anyone before, and is supported by a cabal of leaders who have no independent base. He has unfettered authority – Head of the Party, Head of the State and Chairman, Central Military Commission. The issue is about how he proposes to use this in the five years ahead.

Conventional wisdom would be that Mr. Xi would flex his muscles almost immediately, to achieve certain predetermined ends. Nevertheless, given Mr. Xi's makeup and background, one should not expect him to act irrationally. Mr. Xi is a Maoist in a certain sense but he is no Mao, and is unlikely to indulge in the kind of errors committed by Mao such as The Great Leap Forward and the break-up with the Soviet Union. His target is to make China Great again by 2049. Hence, he is likely to act with more than a degree of caution, avoiding taking actions in haste and upsetting the target of achieving greatness by 2049. China has many peaks to conquer in the next 25 years before it achieves greatness, and Mr. Xi's calculation would

be not to endanger the 2049 target by taking premature action or through his grandstanding.

Hence, one can expect that notwithstanding the level of rhetoric and assertions that this is a dangerous phase, China is unlikely to take any premature step to take over Taiwan, and thereby risk a wider conflict with the U.S. and the rest of the world at this point. Mr. Xi is far more likely to devote attention to internal matters within China, since unity within the Communist Party remains ephemeral; while dissent has been stamped out for the present, more consolidation would be necessary.

The state of China's economy is also likely to be a matter of prime concern to the Party leadership, including Mr. Xi. Dealing with the clouds on the horizon, including efforts to isolate China and the imposition of new restrictions on trade, especially China's access to leading technologies such as semi-conductor technology, available elsewhere in the world would have higher priority. Consequently, one might well see China stepping back from its present confrontational posture with the U.S. and several other countries, and adopting a more conciliatory approach in the near future. There are, of course, certain red lines – any attempt at provocation within the 'First Island Chain', or encouraging Taiwan to seek independence or break away from China – are certain to lead to a conflict, irrespective of how it would adversely affect China's 2049 plans and objectives.

## For Japan and India

While China may adopt a more benign attitude towards much of the rest of the world, India and Japan will figure at the top of the list of countries on China's agenda with which a confrontation is possible, to ensure that they acknowledge China's leadership in Asia. In India's case, while further skirmishes between the two countries along the several thousand kilometres of the undefined land border is to be expected, China is unlikely to embark on an open conflict with it anywhere else in the Indian Ocean region. This could alter, if India were to pursue a more aggressive policy in support of the West's 'open seas policy' in waters in China's vicinity.

India is, however, likely to be a principal target of Chinese wrath in the next few years. As India's economic fortunes steadily improve even as China's declines, the perceptual conflict will become more intense. Moreover, if India is seen as a major recipient of western technology, the kind being denied to China, China would make it a point to use its economic, rather than military muscle, to deter India's progress. For China to achieve greatness by 2049, subduing India economically, and reducing its image in the eyes of the world would be critically important.

# No other country has the *locus standi* to speak on Kashmir, stresses MEA

**Suhasini Haidar**

NEW DELHI

Issuing a detailed response to the China-Pakistan joint statement that was issued during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing on Wednesday, New Delhi said on Thursday that references to Jammu & Kashmir were "unwarranted". It also criticised plans to build more projects in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), with possible extensions to Afghanistan, under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"CPEC includes projects on the sovereign territory of India under forcible and illegal external occupation... Any attempts to involve third parties in such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated as such by us," Ministry of External Affairs

**Ministry responds to China-Pak. statement that criticised 'politicisation' of counter-terror issues**

(MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, calling the infrastructure projects an attempt to "change the *status quo*" in POK.

After the Sharif-Li talks, the joint statement issued in Beijing on Wednesday, also called for "sincere dialogue" to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, and said the resolution should be based on "the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements".

"The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has *locus standi* to com-

ment on the same," Mr. Bagchi said, slamming the references, particularly to the UN Security Council resolutions, that India has "consistently" rejected.

In another contentious reference, the China-Pakistan joint statement criticised the "politicisation" of counter-terror issues, a possible reference to India's attempts at terror designations at the UNSC.

Apart from the stand-off at the LAC, India-China relations are under strain due to China's decision to place "holds" on India's designation proposals for five Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad commanders on the UNSC 1267 list of terrorists. In response to questions about the statement, Mr. Bagchi said India has made its position on the terror listings, and expectations from Pakistan on terrorism quite clear.

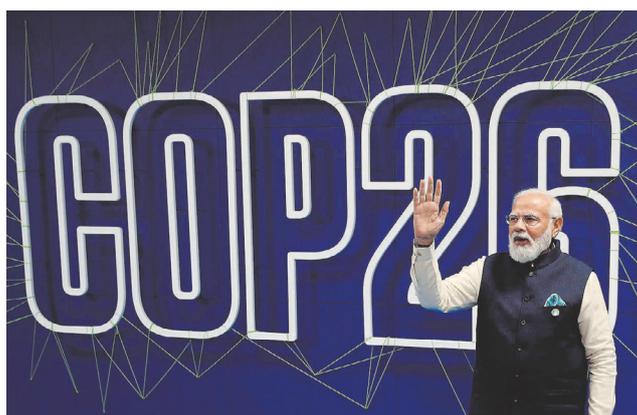
# India will insist on action, clear framework at COP27

Environment Minister says that clarity will be sought on climate finance and technology transfer from developed countries, while more support will be offered to developing countries

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

India will insist on “action” and a clear pathway that developed countries must follow to deliver long-promised finance to developing countries for adapting to climate change threats, Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, said on Thursday, ahead of the 27th edition of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) in Sharm-El-Shaikh, Egypt that begins on November 7.

“This ought to be a COP for action. We will seek clarity on climate finance, technology transfer and clear definitions of what constitutes climate fi-



**Green pledge:** At COP26 held in Glasgow, India had made commitments to reduce emissions. AP

nance. There are several claims made on funds being given by the West but loans and grants must be clearly differentiated. We will make a strong case for this, this time,” Mr. Yadav told reporters.

Several world leaders,

including U.S. President Joe Biden and the U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, are likely to attend the two-week-long summit. However, it is unclear if Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend. A world leaders’ summit is expect-

ed on November 7.

Close to \$100 billion annually has been promised to developing countries since 2008 for adapting and mitigating climate change but only a fraction has actually been made available, India and several other countries have maintained through the years.

India would also support initiatives that provide technical assistance to developing countries for averting, and minimising loss and damage due to the impacts of climate change, and insist on an institutional network to realise these.

There will be an India pavilion in Sharm-El-Sheikh themed on LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), a theme frequently articulated by Mr. Modi.

# Gujarat to vote in 2 phases, results to be out on December 8

## Battle lines drawn

Gujarat will go to polls in two phases in December this year. A look at key dates and voter demography

### Key dates

Polling	Dec. 1, Dec. 5
Counting	Dec. 8



### Voter demography

Total electors	4.91 crore
Newly enrolled*	3.24 lakh
Voters aged 80+	9.87 lakh

### Seat types

Total	182
SC	13
ST	27

\*turned 18 between Jan. 1 and Oct. 1, 2022

Source: ECI

**Jatin Anand**  
NEW DELHI

The Gujarat Assembly election will be held in two phases on December 1 and 5, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar announced here on Thursday. Votes will be counted on December 8.

Of the 182 Assembly constituencies in the State, 89 seats spread across 19

districts, including Morbi, will vote in the first phase, where a recent bridge collapse claimed 140 lives.

The second phase will cover 93 constituencies in 14 districts. The bridge collapse and its aftermath were among the factors considered in preparing the schedule, the CEC said.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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# Gujarat to vote in two phases, results on Dec. 8

“There is a need to balance several factors when it comes to such announcements; not only were there various factors, there was also a very grievous accident that occurred there which needed to be kept in mind. In fact, there was State mourning [in Gujarat] as recently as yesterday,” Mr. Kumar said. The schedule was prepared after taking into consideration “all relevant aspects”, said the CEC, listing factors such as the climatic conditions, the academic calendar, major festivals, the prevailing law and order situation, and “in-depth assessment of other relevant ground realities”.

## Poll promises

On the contentious issue of freebies, Mr. Kumar noted that “serious macroeconomic strains” were becoming visible in countries across the world due to electoral promises. The Election Commission of India is working on a “basic framework” based on transparent disclosures related to the promises being made by political parties and their candidates, he said.

While it was the average political candidate’s choice to promise what they wanted to in their manifesto, at the same time, it was also the right of the voter and other stakeholders to know the means of fulfilment of these promises, he added.

## Social media watch

In addition to requesting political parties to ensure that their candidates and supporters did not indulge in hate speeches and fake news, the Commission announced that it was keeping a strict watch on social media posts to ensure that the election atmosphere was not vitiated.

The CEC encouraged citizens to step forward with complaints related to violations of the Model Code of Conduct on the eVigil App, assuring action within a 100-minute timeline.

The State’s rolls have 4.91 crore electors, who will cast their ballots at 51,782 polling stations. The 2022 Assembly election will provide 4.61 lakh voters the opportunity to exercise their franchise for the first time, Mr. Kumar said.

More than 3.24 lakh voters have been added to the list after turning 18 years old between January and September 2022, while 9.88 lakh voters have been classified as senior citizens. There are 4.04 lakh voters with disabilities, and 1,417 third gender voters on the rolls.

# Decline in pre-primary enrolments continued in 2021-22, says govt. report

It shows 30% fewer students were admitted in these classes as compared to pre-pandemic period; numbers dwindled in primary classes too; total number of schools and teachers also saw a drop

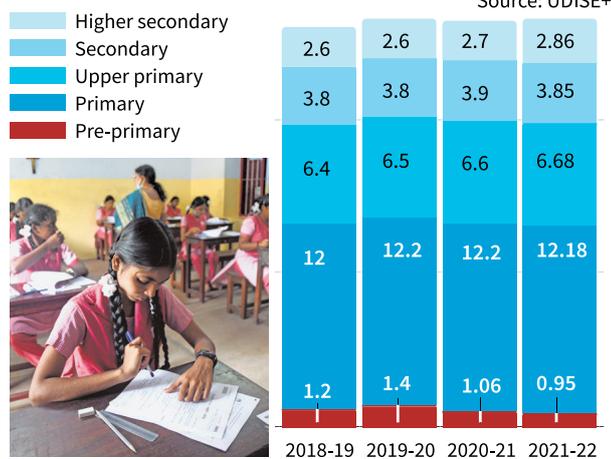
**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he number of children entering pre-primary classes in 2021-2022 saw a further decline, resulting in 30% fewer students in this school section as compared to pre-Covid as younger students with less access to remote learning continue to bear the biggest brunt of learning loss during the pandemic, according to a report released by the Ministry of Education.

A total of 94.95 lakh students entered pre-primary classes in 2021-2022, registering a drop of 10% as compared to the previous year when 1.06 crore children enrolled in these classes. However, in 2020-2021, there was already a decline of 21% enrolment in pre-primary classes as compared to 1.35 crore the year before due to school

## Class strength

The total number of students from primary to higher secondary increased to 25.57 crores in 2021-22. The chart shows enrolment (in crores) in different levels of education



closures and classrooms moving online, according to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus report on school education.

Enrolment in primary

classes, which include classes 1 to 5, also saw a drop for the first time, falling from 12.20 lakh in 2020-2021 to 12.18 lakh in 2021-2022. However, the total number of students

from primary to higher secondary increased by 19 lakh to 25.57 crore.

Also for the first time since the pandemic, the report records a decline in number of schools due to closures as well as a lack of teachers. There were 20,000 fewer schools in 2021-2022 as the total number of schools dropped from 15.09 lakh to 14.89 lakh.

There were also 1.89 lakh or 1.98% fewer teachers as their number reduced from 96.96 lakh in 2020-2021 to 95.07 lakh in 2021-2022.

Computer facilities were available in 44.75% of schools, while Internet access was available only in 33.9% of schools. However, their availability has improved as compared to pre-Covid when only 38.5% of schools had computers and 22.3% had Internet facilities.

# BoE lifts rates by 75 bps, most since 1989

## Reuters

LONDON

The Bank of England raised interest rates to 3% on Thursday from 2.25%, its biggest rate increase since 1989, but it pushed back against expectations for further steep hikes, saying Britain faces a long and painful recession.

The pound slid briefly below \$1.12 after the decision as the central bank said it “might” raise interest rates again, given a “very challenging” economic outlook.

The BoE forecasts inflation will hit a 40-year high of about 11% during the current quarter but it also thinks the British economy has already entered a recession that could last two years – longer than during the 2008-09 financial crisis.

The rise in borrowing costs – the biggest in 33 years apart from a failed attempt to support the pound on Black Wednesday in 1992 – was in line with economists’ expectations, but not unanimous as two members dissented.

# MPC meets to discuss report on missing inflation goal

**The Hindu Bureau**

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held a meeting on Thursday to 'discuss and draft the report to be sent to the government' for missing the 2%-6% inflation target mandated by the MPC framework. The meeting was not part of the MPC's original schedule.

As inflation had exceeded the upper limit for three quarters ended September, the RBI is mandated to report to the government on reasons for the breach, with a roadmap to bring it below 6%.

Governor Shaktikanta Das had earlier said the RBI would not make public the contents of the letter.

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# A gold-mushroom combo to ease drug delivery

Bodoland University's collaborative work on fungus-powered biosynthesised nanogold particles earns international patent

**Rahul Karmakar**  
GUWAHATI

**M**edicines may soon have traces of ultramicroscopic gold powered by a super mushroom for greater efficacy.

Cordy gold nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs), the outcome of a collaborative experiment by scientists from four Indian institutions, has earned an international patent from Germany.

These nanoparticles, derived from the synthesis of the extracts of *Cordyceps militaris* and gold salts, could make drug delivery in the human body faster and surer.

*Cordyceps militaris* is a



**Key agent:** Lab-grown *Cordyceps militaris*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

high-value parasitic fungus, lab-grown at the Department of Biotechnology's Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) in Bodoland University, one of the collaborators of the patented work. Gold salts are ionic chemical com-

pounds of gold generally used in medicine.

### Better penetration

"Penetration in the cells is more when the drug particles are smaller. *Cordyceps militaris*, called super mushroom for its tremen-

dous medicinal properties, adds bioactive components to the synthesis of gold nanoparticles for better penetration," Sandip Das, head of the incubation centre, told *The Hindu*. He was a contributor to developing Cor-AuNPs along with Vashkar Biswa and Raju Ali from Bodoland University.

### Scientists' team

The other collaborators were Shailendra Gurav, Nilambar Gurav and Girish Gawas of Goa University's Department of Pharmacology; Pradeep Gandhale from the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh; and Singamoorthy Amalraj and Mu-

niappan Ayyanar of AVVM Sri Pushpam College in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Das and Mr. Biswa have been working extensively on the genetic diversity and medicinal properties of the wild *Cordyceps* mushroom found in the eastern Himalayan belt. Over eight years, they standardised the cultivation of this mushroom with antimicrobial, antidiabetic and antioxidant properties.

"Biosynthesised nanogold particles indicate a new application of nanoparticles in the development of therapeutic drugs that can be delivered as ointments, tablets, capsules, and in other forms," the team behind Cor-AuNPs said.

# Vanuatu's big plea does little to arrest climate change

**T**here is a strong belief in some quarters that the next climate conference, just days away in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt this year (COP27) may not discuss climate change mitigation largely on account of the ongoing energy stress in Europe. It is felt that the Russia-Ukraine crisis and resulting global energy supply shortages have dented everyone's ability to reduce emissions. This may be a legitimate view but the discussion on coal in the United Nations General Assembly, in September, points to an opposite possibility. The President of Vanuatu, a small Pacific island, wanted the General Assembly to adopt a universal Non Proliferation Treaty to ban the use of fossil fuels across the world.

Usually, such a call by a nation whose contribution to the global energy supplies and emissions is negligible would have gone unnoticed. But Vanuatu represents a strong and vocal group of small island-developing states whose voice is heard with attention and empathy in the UN. More so, when it is a matter that will affect the global discourse on climate change.

The small island group has gone around seeking endorsements from various quarters – governments, the corporate world and civil society. Interestingly, the Mayor of Kolkata, capital of one of the largest coal producing States in India, has lent his voice of support.

## A similar call on coal use

Vanuatu's plea comes in the wake of a similar call for phaseout of coal which was made last year at the Glasgow climate conference. After strong protest by the Indian interlocutors, the language of the decision at Glasgow was toned down from phaseout to phase down of unabated coal power and inefficient fuel subsidies. When India argued that a phaseout was unfair to countries that were heavily dependent on coal power in the medium



**R.R. Rashmi**

is Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, and a former civil servant

Having a universal Non Proliferation Treaty banning the use of fossil fuels globally would do very little to arrest the problem of climate change

term, there was consternation among climate enthusiasts. Given this background, the Alliance Of Small Island States (AOSIS) may be preparing the ground to make the fossil fuel elimination a part of national climate plans at COP 27.

## Different implications

Some people ask why India, which agreed to the phasedown in Glasgow, would object to a non-proliferation treaty even when it offers a flexible timeline for a phasedown. The reason may have well to do with the fact that a call to end fossil fuels through a mandate in the UN has very different implications than when it is presented under the UN Climate Change Convention. A UN mandate of this nature is divorced from the legal responsibility of the polluting countries to reduce their emissions on the basis of responsibility, capability and national circumstances, as required by the Climate Change Convention. It also makes no provisions for technological and financial innovations that are necessary to ensure the transition.

A few months ago, a similar attempt had been made in the UN to treat the matter of climate change as that of global security and request the UN Security Council to resolve it. This was dropped because of the opposition of most of the global south, which saw in this an attempt to address climate change not through international cooperation and consensus but by imposing the wish of a select few on others.

Coal phasedown is not the only way to reduce global emissions. Coal is the mainstay of primary energy supply in many countries such as India and forms the basic and essential component of their energy system. On the other hand, a substantial share of rising global emissions is accounted for by the unsustainable levels of consumption of natural resources and lavish lifestyles led by the consumers in developed

economies. Even in the developing economies, some sections of society are responsible for this lavish and irresponsible behaviour. A plan to drastically reduce coal fired power would in fact do very little to arrest the problem of climate change globally but may create insurmountable difficulties in securing the progress of developing economies towards key sustainable development goals. If the transition to a world of lower emissions has to be sustainable, it must also be just and equitable. It must ensure equal access to energy and secure energy supplies to all, not just to a few. While the developed economies have full access to alternative sources of energy, because of their strength in terms of technology and resources, the developing nations are handicapped. Therefore, a just transition needs to be built on the promise that green energy and a green future will be available to all. It is in this context that the call for Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UN Secretary-General, jointly in India recently, assumes importance. Consumers in countries that consume at an unsustainable pace and contribute to rising emissions have a much greater responsibility to clean up the planet and support the growth of green energy.

The world today is suffering from the adverse effects of climate change which have devastated homes and the livelihoods of large populations in various parts of the vulnerable world. Addressing these impacts and preparing the world for an uncertain future should be the priority. Unfortunately for the developing world, the coal question always takes away prime time in such conferences. It is high time that building climate-resilient infrastructure in the developing and growing countries is given as much importance as phasing down coal and investment in energy innovations and alternative technologies.

# Going beyond Amur falcons: Nagaland to celebrate avian diversity, undertake census

**The Hindu Bureau**

GUWAHATI

Nagaland is undertaking the first avian documentation exercise going beyond the Amur falcons, the migratory raptor that put the State on the world birding map.

The four-day Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC) from Friday has been timed with the post-harvest Tokhü Emong festival of the Lothas, the Naga community that dominates Wokha district, arguably the most preferred stopover of the Amur falcons while travelling from east Asia to southern Africa.

The event is a collaboration among the Wokha Forest Division, the Divisional Management Unit of the Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) and Bird Count India.

“Amur falcons put Nagaland on the world birding map. However, the com-



**High spirits:** The four-day exercise coincides with Tokhü Emong festival. RITU RAJ KONWAR

munities here can do more than just Amur falcon conservation. This event is organised to make each one of us feel proud of the birdlife and nature that we have,” Chenibemo Odyuo of NFMP’s Foundation for Ecological Security, based in Phek, said.

“Nagaland is a State with diverse festivals and diverse birdlife. The TEBC is the first of initiatives where the community is encouraged to celebrate

the festival with birds,” Lansothung Lotha, Range Forest Officer of the Wokha Forest Division said.

“We expect more such festivals in the future where people connect with nature and also help in documenting the rich avifauna in a landscape that still remains to be explored and documented,” he added.

Pia Sethi of the Centre for Ecology, Development and Research said initiatives such as the TEBC are particularly important for the northeast, where rich bird diversity is threatened by habitat loss and hunting.

The exercise entails watching and counting birds on any or all days from November 4-7 from anywhere in Nagaland for at least 15 minutes and uploading the avian names on eBird ([www.ebird.org/india](http://www.ebird.org/india)), the bird recording platform.

# ‘Punjab govt. failed to curb stubble burning’

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

With air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) deteriorating to the “severe” category, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said Punjab had fallen short of its commitments to curb stubble burning by “officially refusing” to use the biodecomposer spray that reportedly helps farmers to manage paddy straw.

Pusa biodecomposer is a microbial solution developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi that decomposes paddy stubble into manure. It has been tested for over two years in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. “However, the AAP govern-

ment in Punjab has said that they won’t be using it. Without any scientific evidence they are claiming that this doesn’t work,” said Mr. Yadav. “The spray had been successfully deployed in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and had helped reduce instances of stubble burning.”

In a series of tweets on Wednesday, Mr. Yadav blamed Punjab’s AAP government for turning Delhi into a “gas chamber”, underlining that Punjab has seen a 19% rise in farm fires in comparison to last year, with 3,634 fires reported on Wednesday alone.

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# 'Punjab govt. failed to curb stubble burning'

A day earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal blamed the Central government for the rising incidents of stubble burning in Punjab. The Centre had “declined” requests to provide cash incentives to farmers for not burning their crop residue, he said.

## Slow progress

M.M. Kutty, Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management, said Punjab had committed to using the biodecomposer on only 5,000 acres. The total area under paddy cultivation in Punjab is close to 75 lakh acres.

Adverse meteorological conditions had worsened the air pollution crisis in the Delhi-NCR region but overall, there was also a palpable rise in awareness among farmers in Punjab too that burning was not a solution, Mr. Kutty told *The Hindu*. “Our ground investigations have shown that more farmers are collecting their stubble as bales and relying on multiple options to dispose them. While there’s an increase in burning this year compared to last, it’s lower than in 2020. There is change but it is slow,” he said.

*(With inputs from PTI)*

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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 <sup>th</sup> 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
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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;
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## General Studies Paper II

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C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
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F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
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