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MK Yadav Sir

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LIVE MINT

Page 1

CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Carbon tax hurdle looms over India-UK FTA talks

Ravi Dutta Mishra
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NEW DELHI

India's proposed free trade agreement with the UK could face a major roadblock, as the latter is considering imposing a carbon tax akin to the European Union's policy, which proposes to levy steep tariffs on imports with higher carbon footprints.

An EU-style carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) is expected to dent India's metal exports to the UK even if India and the UK agree on significant tariff concessions, experts said. India and the UK have completed six rounds of negotiations and are expected to sign the agreement shortly.

However, both the governments have refrained from announcing any deadline to complete negotiations.

The EU carbon tax, also known as CBAM, aims to cut carbon emissions by imposing a levy on imported goods based on their carbon footprint.

India has called steps such as CBAM 'discriminatory' MINT

The proposal triggered trade tensions with EU's trading partners, including India, who call it a protectionist tool that makes their goods less competitive in the EU market.

India has opposed measures such as CBAM and has called it "discriminatory" in a letter to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

According to the UK's 126-page-long consultation paper titled 'Addressing carbon leakage risk to support decarbonization,' implementation of CBAM is a "possible" carbon leakage policy measure. The consultation period for the UK's carbon tax ends on 22 June.

"CBAM will result in the UK gradually taxing all imports at rates much higher than the UK's current import tariff rates. UK's average tariff rates are less than 2%. These may become zero post-India-UK FTA. But Indian exports will still need to pay carbon tax at much higher rates. As India is at an advanced stage of finalizing its FTA with the UK, it must seek clarification on this issue," former Indian Trade Service officer and founder of Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Ajay Srivastava said.

Srivastava added that the

TURN TO PAGE 6

Context: India's proposed free trade agreement with the UK could face a major roadblock, as the latter is considering imposing a carbon tax akin to the European Union's policy, which proposes to levy steep tariffs on imports with higher carbon footprints.

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Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)

- **About**: It is a mechanism to be **introduced by the European Union (EU)** to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
  - The EU plans a **gradual introduction of CBAM from 1st October 2023** and this will translate into a 20-35% tax on selected imports to the EU nations by 1st January 2026.
  - From 1st January 2026, the EU will start **levying the carbon tax** on multiple products exported to the EU.
  - The products included in the CBAM list will be expanded over a period of time and by 2034, it will cover all products entering the EU.
- **Impact of CBAM on India**
  - CBAM will **hurt the global trade** of developing countries, especially India.
  - In 2022, **India's 27% of the total export** in iron, steel, and aluminium products (valuing USD 8.2 billion) went to the EU.
  - Under this mechanism, from 1st October 2023, India's export of Iron and aluminum to EU nations, will att**ract extra scrutiny.**
  - The tariffs for iron, steel, and aluminum products will be raised to 20-35 percent, exceeding the EU's agreed-upon bound tariff rate of 2.2 percent for its manufacturers at the World Trade Organization (WTO). This will **increase costs resulting in the loss of billions of dollars of exports.**
  - Though fertilizer, cement and electrical energy are the other affected products, India's export on these products to the EU is very negligible and hence won't impact India that much.
  - As the EU adds more items to the CBAM list after 1st January 2026, the **impact will be more on Indian exporters.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

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LANDLORD PORT MODEL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

At 65.6 mt, country's oldest port records its highest cargo traffic

ISHITA AYAN DUTT
Kolkata, 4 April

The country's oldest port, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK, formerly Kolkata Port Trust) has clocked in highest cargo traffic surpassing its previous best of 2019-20.

In FY23, SMPK handled 65.66 million tonnes (mt) of cargo, up 12.87 per cent over 58.175 mt in FY22. The previous high in FY20 was 63.983 mt.

The port recorded a net surplus of ₹304.07 crore in FY23 compared to ₹120.51 crore in the previous year. Its total income was Rs 2,919 crore in FY23 as against Rs 2,632 crore in FY22.

P L Haranadh, Chairman, SMPK, said, "For this 153-year-old port, the last finance year (FY23) was a game-changing year. In its history, the port has never seen this level of performance."

"Very few ports had seen a growth of 12.87 per cent," he added.

The achievement was on the back of a jump in rail borne cargo coupled with transhipment operations throughout the year that allowed capesize vessels to come to port.

The previous high in FY20 was 63.983 mt

A major limitation for Haldia and Kolkata was the draught — a maximum of 8.5 to 7.3 metres — which meant that only smaller vessels could enter, said Haranadh."Now, people are moving towards bigger vessels so that the logistic cost per tonne comes down. The transhipment operation improved substantially last year, which helped SMP overcome this problem," the Chairman explained. The port handled the highest ever rail borne cargo of 34.608 mt, a growth of 14.64 per cent.

A K Mehra, Deputy Chairman, Haldia Dock Complex, said the maximum cargo increase was from coking coal for supply to SAIL and Tata Steel.

Landlord model

To augment the port's capacity, SMPK is stressing on PPP projects in a big way. More than 80 per cent of cargo handling operation would be under the landlord model or PPP mode, said the Chairman. "Cargo handling operation will be with the PPP operator, marine operation will be with the port," he added. The target was to reach 100 per cent cargo handling through PPP.

During FY23, the port awarded three major projects with investment of Rs 730 crore through the PPP mode. These three projects were expected to increase capacity by 6.7 mt.

Further, the port would be starting night navigation of the vessels destined to or originating from Kolkata Dock System, in association with Antwerp Port, Belgium and IIT Chennai. This would reduce the turnaround time of vessels and increase capacity.

The plan is to start with small vessels up to 100 metres by August 2023 and all vessels by March 2024.

Context: The country's oldest port, **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK, formerly Kolkata Port Trust)** has clocked in highest cargo traffic surpassing its previous best of 2019-20.

- To augment the port´s capacity, SMPK is stressing on PPP projects in a big way.
- More than 80 per cent of cargo handling operation would be under the **landlord model or PPP model.**

Landlord Port Model

- It's a port model in which **both public and private sector** are engaged in the overall management of the port. Under this, the port authority acts as regulatory body (just like landlord) while port operations (especially cargo handling) are done by the private companies.
- It aims at **decentralizing decision making** (decisions taken at various levels) and to include professionalism in the governance of the ports.
- In July 2022, **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP)** became the first 100% Landlord port of India.

Service Port Model

- In service ports, the **port authority** does the administration and operation of port activities.
- The port operation includes providing navigational services, warehouse facilities, cranes, and skilled employees/laborers. The **construction of infrastructure, superstructure,** and providing employees, becomes the responsibility of the port authority.
- Even if the port authority act in the public interest full ownership of the port **remains with the state or the government.**
- In most cases, **service ports run on losses due to inefficiency**. Since the port belongs to the state and operations control by the port authority, workers go on strikes to obtain their demands.

THE HINDU Page 12

INDIA JUSTICE REPORT 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Judiciary)

More women judges at districts courts than in High Courts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bihar, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand High Courts have no women judges

There are more women judges at the district court level than at the High Court level, with 35% of the total number of judges at the district court level and only 13% of judges in the High Courts across the country being women, the India Justice Report (IJR), 2022 has revealed.

While the share of women judges remains uneven across the States, Goa, with 70%, has the highest percentage of women judges at subordinate courts, followed by Meghalaya and Nagaland at 63% each.

The IJR stated that the representation of women judges is steadily rising in subordinate courts, but in the High Courts, the share of women judges remains low.

Among the High Courts, Sikkim, with a total strength of just three judges, has the highest national average at 33.3% of women judges. Meanwhile, Bihar, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand continued to have no women judges in their High Courts, the IJR said. Though caste-based reservations vary from State to State, the IJR data revealed that at the district court level, no State or Union Territory "could fully meet all its Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes quotas".

"State-wise data on caste diversity in High Courts remains unavailable," said the report which is published using the latest available government figures.

However, the IJR said that a Department of Justice Report to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice is reported to have stated that "from 2018 to December 2022, a total of 537 judges were appointed to the High Courts, of whom 1.3% were ST, 2.8% SC, 11% were from OBC category and 2.6% were from minority communities".

Context: There are more women judges at the district court level than at the High Court level, with 35% of the total number of judges at the district court level and only 13% of judges in the High Courts across the country comprising of women, the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022** has revealed.

- IJR is a collaborative effort undertaken in partnership with **DAKSH, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Common Cause, Centre for Social Justice, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and TISS-Prayas.**

Highlights of the report

- While the **share of women judges remains uneven** across States, Goa with 70%, has the highest percentage of women judges at subordinate courts, followed by Meghalaya and Nagaland at 63% each.
- the representation of women judges is steadily rising in subordinate courts, but in High Courts, the share of women judges remains low.
- Amongst the High Courts, **Sikkim, with a total strength of just three judges**, has the highest national average at 33.3% of women judges. It is followed by Telangana with 27.3% of its High Court judges comprising women.
- However, in some States, the **percentage of women in the High Courts has dropped.** Andhra Pradesh went from 19 to 6.7% followed by Chhattisgarh which slumped from 14.3 to 7.1%.
- Bihar, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand continued to have **no women judges** in their High Courts.
- **Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have a very low proportion of women in legal aid.** Andhra Pradesh saw the steepest fall in the representation of women judges in its High Courts.
- Though **caste-based reservations** vary from State to State, the IJR data revealed that at the district-court level no State or Union Territory "could fully meet all its Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes quotas".
- A **Department of Justice Report to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice** stated that, "from 2018 to December 2022, a total of 537 judges were appointed to the High Courts, of whom 1.3% were Scheduled Tribes, 2.8% Scheduled Castes, 11% were from the Other Backward Classes category and 2.6% were from minority communities".
- The IJR report found that nine States and Union Territories met their Other Backward Classes quotas.
- At 50%, Tamil Nadu has the second highest percentage of reservation in this category, fulfilling its quota completely.
- **Chhattisgarh fulfilled its quotas for Scheduled Castes** and Other Backward Classes and Telangana fully met its quota for Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. Ladakh, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, and Gujarat exceeded their Scheduled Castes quota.
- In West Bengal, **100% of vacancies for SCs, STs and OBCs remain unfilled.**
- Jharkhand, Odisha, Goa and Gujarat also have a lot of unfilled SC, ST and OBC vacancies

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 7

INFERTILITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

One in six adults globally affected by infertility: WHO

'Fertility Rate In India Down 20% In 10 Yrs'

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Among the bigger states/UTs, J&K (29.2) has witnessed maximum decline in general fertility rate, followed by Delhi (28.5)

New Delhi: Around 17.5% of the adult population — roughly 1 in 6 worldwide — are affected by infertility in their lifetime, a new report published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has claimed.

It is based on a meta-analysis of 12,241 records of potentially relevant studies across the world.

According to the WHO report, infertility rates are comparable for high-, middle- and low-income countries, indicating that this is a major health challenge globally. "Lifetime prevalence was 17.8% in high-income countries and 16.5% in low- and middle-income countries," the WHO said in a statement.

"The report reveals an important truth: infertility does not discriminate," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general at WHO. "The sheer proportion of people affected shows the need to widen access to fertility care and ensure this issue is no longer sidelined in health research and policy."

The General Fertility Rate (GFR) has declined in India by 20% over the past decade. GFR refers to the number of children born per 1,000 women in a year in the reproductive age group (15-49). The GFR in India stood at 86.1 in 2008-10. It has come down to 68.7.

Among the states/UTs, J&K(29.2) has witnessed maximum decline in GFR followed by Delhi (28.5), UP(24), Jharkhand (24) and Rajasthan (23.2) between 2008-10 and 2018-20.

Context: Around 17. 5% of the adult population - roughly 1 in 6 worldwide - are affected by **infertility** in their lifetime, a new report published by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has claimed.

- The **General Fertility Rate (GFR)** has declined in India by 20% over the past decade. GFR refers to the number of children born per 1,000 women in a year in the reproductive age group (15-49). The GFR in India stood at 86. 1 in 2008-10. It has come down to 68. 7.
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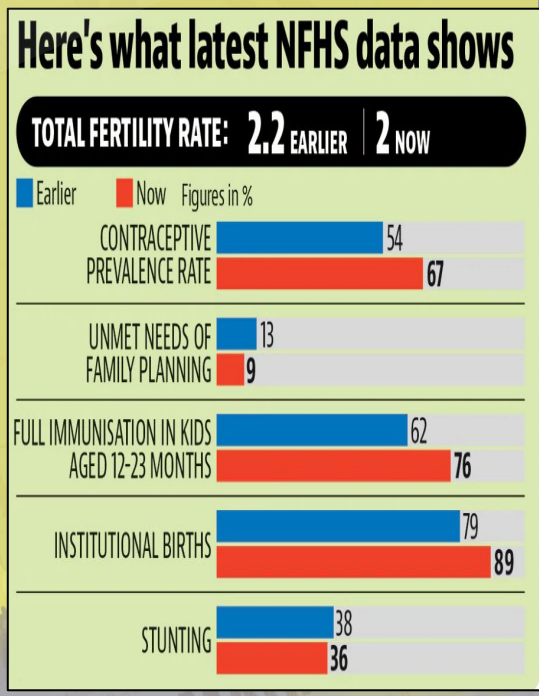
Infertility

- **About**: When a man or woman is **incapable to contribute fully to pregnancy** even after insecure coitus, it is referred to as infertility.
- **Causes**: The reason for infertility may be **known or unknown.** Mostly **ovulation variation** in women is the main reason for infertility. In males, **insufficient sperm production or genetic defects**, etc., are the reasons for infertility.
- **Treatment**: Infertility can be solved with the help of processes like in **vitro fertilization (IVF), zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT), gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT)** etc.
  - **Assisted reproductive technology (ART)** is a collection of medical manipulation methods to circumvent infertility.
  - The methods include gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT), in vitro fertilization (IVF), zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT), embryo transfer (ET), etc.
  - These all methods aim to **increase pregnancy probability to its full term.**
  - **Cost of treatment and time consumption** is counted as two disadvantages of ART.



ECONOMIC TIMES

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PM SHRAM YOGI MAAN DHAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

PM-SYM SEES 5.5% DROP IN FY23

Unorganised Workers' Pension Scheme Sees Drop in Enrolments

Exits reported from Jan 31; experts say high inflation may have hit contributions

Yogima.Sharma
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New Delhi: Four years after its launch, the government's flagship pension scheme for unorganised workers registered a dip in total enrolments.

Government data shows enrolments under the PM Shram Yogi Maan Dhan (PM-SYM) scheme fell for the first time in the last fiscal year to 4.4 million as on March 31, 2023, compared to 4.6 million on March 31, 2022, a 5.5% drop.

Experts say this could be temporary as contributions are governed by negative pulls and positive pushes. "People contribute when they have money and in case of paucity of funds they stop contributing to the scheme. Hence, instead of a linear rise in numbers, there is a fluctuation," labour economist KR Shyam Sunder said.

Data shows exits from the scheme started after January 31, 2023, after enrolments touched an all-time high of 5.6 million

Data shows exits from the scheme started after January 31, 2023, after enrolments touched an all-time high of 5.6 million.

"Inflation has been severe on the people, especially the retail inflation, which was high in the first three months of 2023. This could have prompted unorganised workers to postpone contribution to the scheme," Sunder added.

Enrolments under the scheme rose steadily since its launch in March 2018, but the pace of addition slowed down considerably after the pandemic.

PM-SYM is a voluntary contribution scheme under which unorganised workers aged 18-40 years can make monthly contributions ranging from ₹55 to ₹200 and a matching contribution is made by the government.

This corpus is used to pay a minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 per month to the beneficiary after attaining the age of 60 years and if the beneficiary dies, the spouse of the beneficiary is entitled to receive 50% of the pension as a family pension under the scheme.

The scheme is a part of the government's universal social security goal. The labour ministry launched mega enrolment camps and a 'Donate a Pension' initiative under the scheme on March 7, 2022 to expand coverage.

The ministry also launched an extensive social media campaign to popularise the scheme.

SLOWING ENROLMENT

PMSYM enrolments down for first time since its launch in 2018

High inflation may have impacted contribution

ANNUAL ENROLMENTS UNDER THE SCHEME	(in lakhs)
2018-19	27.4
2019-20	16.1
2020-21	1.72
2021-22	1.28
2022-23	-2.71

Context: Four years after its launch, the government's flagship pension scheme for unorganised workers registered a dip in total enrolments.

- Government data shows enrolments under the **PM Shram Yogi Maan Dhan (PM-SYM)** scheme fell for the first time in the last fiscal year to 4. 4 million as on March 31, 2023, compared to 4. 6 million on March 31, 2022, a 5. 5% drop.

PM Shram Yogi Maan Dhan

- **About**: It is a **Voluntary and Contributory Pension Scheme** under the purview of the Central Sector Scheme, administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented by LIC.
- **Eligibility: The scheme is open for** Unorganised Workers.
  - They should **not be engaged in the Organized Sector** (member of EPFO/NPS/ESIC) or an income taxpayer.
  - They should be **aged between 18-40 years** when registering.
  - Their monthly income should be **equal to or less than Rs 15,000 per month**.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Assured Pension of Rs. 3000/- month** after attaining the age of 60 years.
  - After the death of a subscriber, the **spouse will get 50%** of the pension as a family pension.
  - **Matching Contribution** by the Government of India.
  - In case of **permanent disability,** subscribers can continue or exit with the contributed amount.
  - After the **death of the subscriber** and his or her spouse, the corpus shall be credited back to the fund.
  - In case the contribution has not been made continuously, the subscriber is **allowed to regularise it after payment of outstanding dues,** penalty charges, if any, decided by the government.

PIB

April 5

EXERCISE SLINEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

INDIA –SRILANKA ANNUAL BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE (SLINEX-23)

Context: The **10th edition of IN-SLN bilateral maritime exercise** SLINEX-23 is scheduled at Colombo from 03 - 08 April 2023.

- The exercise is being conducted in two phases: the **Harbour Phase from 03-05 April 2023, followed by a Sea Phase from 06-08 April 2023.**
- Indian Navy is being represented by **INS Kiltan,** an indigenous Kamorta class ASW corvette and INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- The Sri Lanka Navy is being represented by **SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Sagara.**

SLINEX (Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise)

- **About**: These are a s**eries of naval exercises** between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy.
- **Origin**: The first SLINEX exercise **took place in 2005.**
- **Objectives**: SLINEX aims to **enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding** and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
    - SLINEX exemplifies the **deep maritime engagement** between India and Sri Lanka.

Other Exercises between India and Sri Lanka

- **Exercise MITRA SHAKTI:** Military Exercise.
- **Dosti Trilateral Exercise**: Coast guard India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

PIB

April 5

DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Disaster Management)

PM addresses 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Context: The Prime MInister addressed the **5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023.**

- He mentioned the **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States initiative o**r IRIS benefitting many island nations.
- He remarked on the **Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund** that was announced last year. This 50 million dollar fund has generated immense interest among developing nations.

International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- **About**: ICDRI is an **annual international conference** and platform to continue building an engaged global community for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.
- **Nodal Agency**: The conference is organised by the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI),** and will bring together stakeholders from partner countries representing national disaster risk management agencies, key infrastructure sectors, private sector and many multilateral institutions.
- **Objectives**: The Conference provides an **opportunity to address issues around infrastructure transitions**, risk governance and finance, and putting people at the centre of building resilient infrastructure.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- **About**: CDRI is an **international coalition of national governments, UN agencies and programmes,** multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.
- **Objectives**: CDRI aims to **promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems** to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.
  - CDRI promotes rapid development of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals'.
- **CDRI India**: CDRI was first proposed by Prime Minister during the 2016 **Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** held in New Delhi.
  - CDRI was then approved in 2019 for which the Government of India also pledged **financial support of ₹480 crore towards the CDRI corpus.**

Infrastructure for Resilient Island State (IRIS)

- **About**: The Infrastructure for Resilient Island State (IRIS) is an initiative **under the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).**
  - The Infrastructure for Resilient Island State (IRIS) is the **first major initiative by India** under the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- **Mandate**: The Infrastructure for Resilient Island State (IRIS) aims to **create a disaster-resilient infrastructure** that can minimize human and economic loss of the small island countries during various disasters.
- **Funding**: **Australia, India and the UK** have committed initial funding of $10 million under the Infrastructure for Resilient Island State (IRIS). More countries like Japan are expected to join it.
- **Timely Information**: ISRO will build a **special data window for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring, etc. through satellite.

DTE

APRIL 5

REPORT ON WATER ISSUES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Panel recommends new central body to mitigate water woes due to lack of agency coordination

The Parliamentary Standing Committee report also found excessive dependence on groundwater

NEXT NEWS >

By Zumbish

Published: Tuesday 04 April 2023

Context: State- and central-level bodies that currently bear responsibility for issues related to water, lack coordination between them, a **Parliamentary Standing Committee report** has noted.

- The report, tabled in the Lok Sabha, also recommended the **Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (water resources)** constitute a central body with representation from the bodies.

Key Points

- The bodies, alluded to by the committee, include:
  - The Union Ministry of Rural Development, and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
  - State departments, state and central pollution control boards
  - Dedicated authorities such as the **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** and the **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)**
- The Committee observed that dependence on groundwater for irrigation was excessive.
  - This was so because water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane command higher minimum support price (MSP), it noted.

Key Recommendations

- The Committee recommended the department of water resources, river development, and ganga rejuvenation **takes urgent action in this regard.**
  - The three departments should engage with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to **encourage fewer water-intensive cultivation crops and cultivation patterns.**
- It further recommended **amendment of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,** "to enable pollution control boards to impose monetary penalties, as a less severe penalty than the outright closure of industrial units".
- The panel also recommended the **modification of schemes** like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana to support the rejuvenation of existing water bodies.
- There are schemes for recharging groundwater through rainwater harvesting in urban areas, such as **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).**
  - The Committee recommended that the Jal Shakti ministry coordinate these efforts.
- **Urban local bodies** should be given more funds to maintain water bodies.
  - The **Atal Bhujal Yojana** provides central financial assistance to state governments and local bodies for projects related to groundwater management.
- The Committee recommended the scheme's **extension to all states** facing groundwater scarcity as it is currently being piloted only in seven states.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

- **About**: It is a **national apex organization** with responsibility to carry out scientific surveys, exploration, monitoring of development, management and regulation of country's vast groundwater resources for irrigation, drinking, domestic and industrial needs.
- **Origin**: Established in 1954, **CGWB functions under the Ministry of Water Resources.**
- **Mandate**: To Develop and disseminate technologies, and monitor and **implement national policies for the Scientific and Sustainable development and management of India's Ground Water Resources,** including their exploration, assessment, conservation, augmentation, protection from pollution and distribution, based on principles of economic and ecological efficiency and equity.
- **Vision**: **Sustainable Development and Management** of Ground Water Resources of the Country.

DTE

APRIL 5

SIKKIM AVALANCHE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Context: An **avalanche** at Thulo khola on the Nathula Road connecting Sikkim's capital Gangtok with the strategic **Nathula Pass** killed seven tourists on April 4, 2023.

Avalanche

- **About**: It is a **rapid downslope movement of a large detached mass of snow, ice,** and associated debris such as rocks and vegetation.
  - **Small avalanches**, or Sluffs, occur in large numbers, while **large avalanches** that may encompass slopes a kilometer or more in length with millions of tons of snow, occur infrequently but cause most of the damage.
- **Types of Avalanches:**
  - **Loose snow avalanches**: formed in snow with **little internal cohesion** among individual snow crystals.
  - **Slab avalanches**: Originate in snow with **sufficient internal cohesion** to enable a snow layer, or layers, to react mechanically as a single entity.
  - **Wet snow avalanches**: These move **more slowly** than dry ones and are seldom accompanied by dust clouds.
  - **Direct action avalanches**: These are the immediate result of a single snowstorm. They usually **involve only fresh snow.**
  - **Climax avalanches**: Result of a series of snowstorms or a culmination of weather influences. Their fall is **not necessarily associated with a current storm** or weather situation.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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GATEWAY OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Heritage & Culture)

Cracks found on Gateway of India but structure fine: Govt

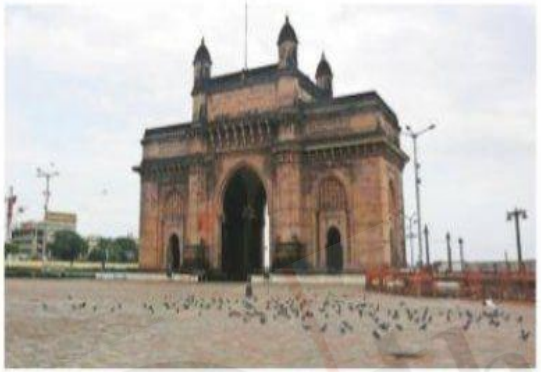
DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

CRACKS WERE found on the surface of Mumbai's Gateway of India during inspection, even though the structure continues to be in good shape, the Centre has informed Parliament.

The Gateway of India is not a Centrally protected monument. It comes under the purview of Maharashtra's Archaeology Department, which will undertake the repair project estimated to cost Rs 9 crore at the century-old site.

Stating this in Parliament on Monday, Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said, "(A) few cracks were found on the surface during the inspection. The overall structure was found to be in a good state of preservation."

As per estimates, the monument gets more than a thousand visitors every day, which multiplies manifold during weekends and tourist seasons. The arch-monument was built to commemorate the arrival of George V, the first British monarch to visit India, in December 1911. The construction was completed in 1924.



The monument was built to commemorate the arrival of George V in 1911. *Express File*

Reddy's statement was in response to a joint question in Lok Sabha by Shiv Sena members Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane, Prataprao Jadhav, Shrirang Barne, and Sanjay Mandlik, and BJP MPs Bidyut Baran Mahato and Sudheer Gupta. The members had asked whether "a recent structural audit of the Gateway of India, Mumbai, has revealed cracks along the facade, which is a cause of concern for the government".

They also sought to know whether the Union Culture Ministry has received any report on the issue.

Reddy said no report has been submitted to the Centre in this regard. "The Gateway of India, Mumbai, is not a Centrally protected monument. It is under the protection of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra," the minister stated.

Reddy told the House that the government has not received any restoration proposal for the monument.

Context: Cracks were found on the surface of Mumbai's **Gateway of India** during inspection, even though the structure continues to be in good shape, the Centre has informed Parliament.

- The Gateway of India is **not a Centrally protected monument.** It comes under the purview of **Maharashtra's Archaeology Department**, which will undertake the repair project estimated to cost Rs 9 crore at the century-old site.

Gateway of India

- **About**: The Gateway of India is an **arch-monument built** in the early 20th century in the city of Mumbai (Bombay), India.
- **Origin**: It was erected to **commemorate the landing of King-Emperor George V**, the first British monarch to visit India, in December 1911 at Strand Road near Wellington Fountain.
- **Monument style**: The foundation stone was laid in March 1913 for a monument built in the **Indo-Islamic style,** inspired by elements of **16th-century Gujarati architecture.**
  - The final design of the monument by architect **George Wittet** was sanctioned only in 1914, and construction was completed in 1924.
  - The structure is a **memorial arch made of basalt,** which is 26 metres (85 feet) high, with an architectural resemblance to a triumphal arch as well as Gujarati architecture of the time.
- **Location**: It is **located on the waterfront at an angle,** opposite the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel and overlooks the Arabian Sea.

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