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INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

SC: Derecognising parties over freebies is anti-democratic

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana on Thursday acknowledged that the impact of freebies promised by political parties on the country's fiscal health was "a serious issue" but said he was not in favour of derecognising any party over it because that would be "anti-democratic".

"Derecognition and all is an anti-democratic thing, which I don't like...It's a democratic country," the CJI, presiding over a two-judge bench, said while hearing a plea on the issue.

"Nobody is saying this is not an issue. This is a serious issue. People who are getting benefits may say this is a welfare state, and we are entitled to this. People who are opposed may say we are paying tax...and it has to be spent on developmental activities, and not for distributing it in whatever way parties want," the CJI said.

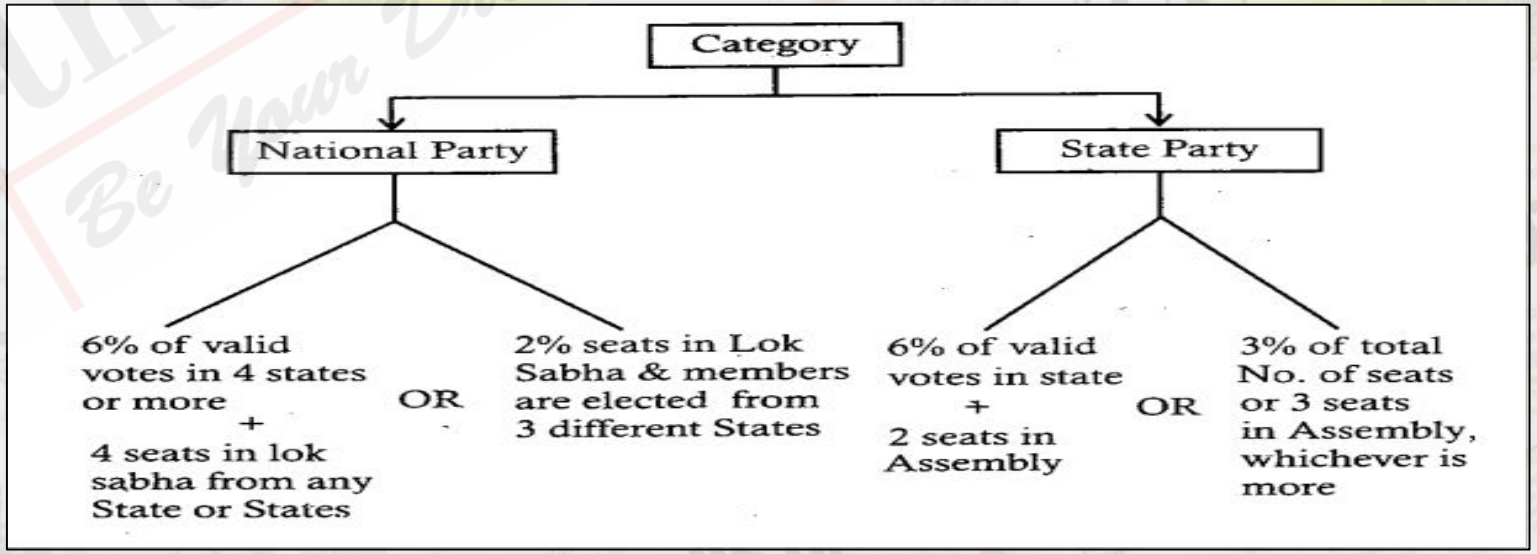
"Nobody can say this cannot be discussed, or debate cannot be initiated....The suggested committee can look into these issues," he said while referring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Context: SC CJI said derecognising parties over freebies is anti-democratic.

Power of Registration/Deregistration:

- The ECI is **not empowered to de-register parties** on the grounds of violating the Constitution or breaching the undertaking given to it at the time of registration.
- ECI has the **power to register parties under the Representation of the People Act,(RPA) 1951,** but it does not have the power to deregister parties that are inactive.
- A party can only be de-registered-
  - If its registration was obtained by fraud;
  - If it is declared illegal by the Central Government; or
  - If a party amends its internal Constitution and notifies the ECI that it can no longer abide by the Indian Constitution.



INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

RIGHT TO DIE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Issues)

Bengaluru woman goes to Delhi HC to stop friend's euthanasia trip to Europe

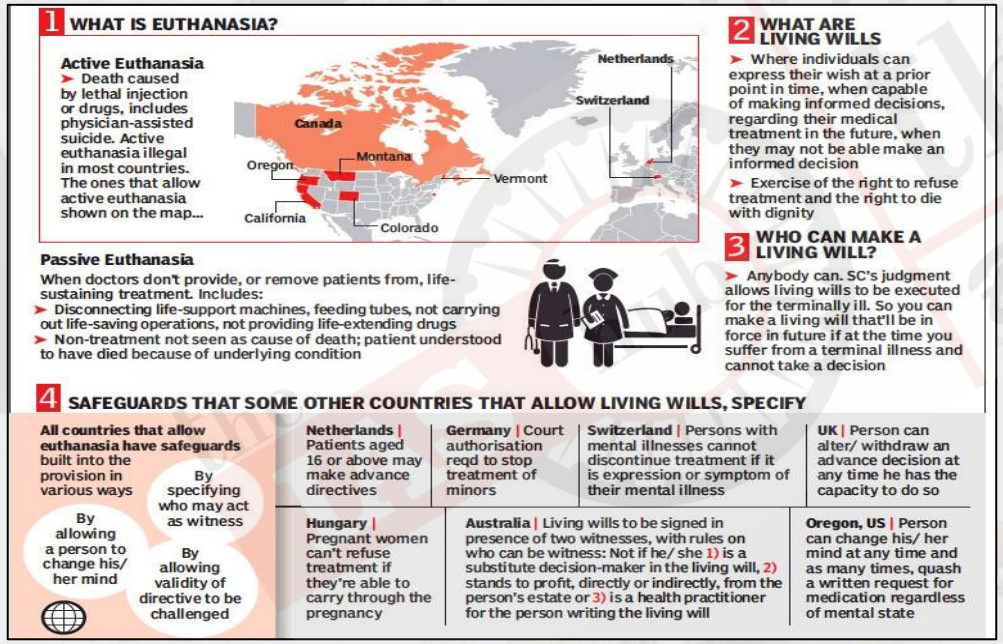
SOFI AHSAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

WHEN THE Delhi High Court re-opens next week after a week-long break, it will be called upon to decide on a unique case. A 49-year-old woman from Bengaluru wants the court to stop her friend, a Noida-based 48-year-old man with a debilitating health condition, from travelling to Europe allegedly to undergo assisted suicide or euthanasia — an option not available in India to a person who is not terminally ill.

According to a petition filed before the court on Wednesday, the man has been suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since 2014 and is allegedly planning to travel to Switzerland for a physician-assisted suicide. The woman, who has described herself as a close friend of the patient, has pleaded that his parents, other family members and friends would suffer "irreparable loss" and "hardship" if the plea to halt his travel is not allowed.

The Noida resident, according to the petition, was undergoing a method of treatment called Fecal Microbiota Transplantation in AIIMS for his condition but could not continue in the pandemic

CONTINUE ON PAGE 7



Context: An woman from Bengaluru wants the court to stop her friend from travelling to Europe allegedly to undergo assisted suicide or euthanasia - an option not available in India to a person who is not terminally ill.

About Euthanasia

- **Mercy Killing:** Also known as euthanasia is the painless act of death of a suffering person who would not survive if medical facilities were deprived of their help.
- **Aruna Shanbaug case:** This issue was raised by the Supreme Court (SC) and was finalized in 2018, granting the right to die with dignity as part of the right to life under Article 21.
- **Current status:** Only passive euthanasia is permitted by the Supreme Court in India.



LIVEMINT Page 2

SOLAR PARK SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Govt may cancel solar park allocations on slow progress

The review comes at a time several solar parks in the country are still to be commissioned

Rituraj Baruah
rituraj.baruah@livemint.com
NEW DELHI



The solar parks are developed in collaboration with state governments and their agencies, central public sector enterprises and private entrepreneurs. BLOOMBERG

The ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) will review the status of solar parks where developers have failed to make significant progress and may even cancel their allocations, two officials aware of the development said.

The review comes at a time several solar parks in the country are still to be commissioned despite the fact that several years have passed since their allocation by the government to developers. According to the latest data from the MNRE furnished in the Parliament, as of 30 June, a total of 61 solar parks with 40GW capacity were approved under the scheme 'Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects', out of which only 10GW has been commissioned. "The government may review the parks which have not done very well... and also look at whether we want to cancel those to free up capacities," one of the two officials said, requesting anonymity.

Individual solar projects of smaller capacity incur significant expenses in site development, drawing separate transmission lines to the nearest substation, procuring water and the creation of other necessary infrastructure. It also requires significant time, while solar parks come in a plug-and-play model wherein land and related infrastructure is already provided. Such parks are also exempted from environmental impact assessment.

SLOW PROGRESS

AS of 30 June, a total of 61 solar parks with 40GW capacity were approved by the ministry

SANCTIONED solar parks are spread across 16 states, with Rajasthan having the highest number

CAPACITY-WISE, Gujarat is in the lead with 7 parks having a total capacity of 12.025 GW

The solar parks are developed in collaboration with state governments and their agencies, central public sector enterprises and private entrepreneurs. The implementing agency is termed Solar Power Park Developer (SPPD). There are several modes to select the implementing agency.

According to data provided in a written reply by the minister for new and renewable energy R.K. Singh recently in the Lok Sabha, the 61 sanctioned solar parks are spread across 16 states, with Rajasthan having the highest number of 10 solar parks sanctioned with a total capacity of 7.036 GW. Capacity-wise, Gujarat is in the lead in terms of sanctions and has seven parks with a capacity of 12.025GW that have been sanctioned in the state. The commissioned capacity in Rajasthan and Gujarat stands at 2.901GW and 785MW. Other key states with large sanctioned capacities of solar parks are Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, at 6.08GW, 4.2GW, and 3.805GW, respectively. The commissioned capacity in the three states as of 30 June was 1GW, 3.050GW, and 165MW, respectively.

The proposed review of solar parks comes at a time the parliamentary standing committee on energy has expressed disappointment over the slow progress of solar parks, as only eight were developed during 2015-2020, against the target of over 50 solar parks by 2022.

Queries sent to the ministry of new and renewable energy remained unanswered till press time.

In its reply to the panel's recommendations and observations, the ministry said that it is making concerted efforts to achieve the target of completion of solar parks with an aggregate capacity of 40GW by 2023-24, showed the 28th report of the house panel on the action taken by the government over the suggestions made by the panel.

"The ministry is making concerted efforts to achieve the target of completion of solar parks of aggregate capacity 40 GW by 2023-24," MNRE said in its reply, adding that it has also introduced a new mode of implementation under the solar park scheme with a provision to incentivize states. State-run companies and state government agencies are actively involved and are developing parks under a new mode, it said.

Context: The ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) will review the status of solar parks.

Solar Park Scheme

- It was **launched by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy** in 2014.
- **Objective**: It was proposed to set up at least 25 Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects.
- **Aim**: Over 20,000 MW of solar power installed capacity within a span of 5 years starting from 2014-15.
- **Capacity of the Scheme:** enhanced from 20,000 MW to 40,000 MW in 2017. The parks are also proposed to be set up by 2021-22.
- There are **eight modes under which the scheme** is being implemented.
- Under this scheme, **India's largest solar park of 4750 MW** is being set up by NTPC in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.

Other Solar Energy Initiatives:

- **National Solar Mission**: India's National Action Plan on Climate Change with the National Solar Mission as one of the key Missions.
- **India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) target:** It targets installing 100 GW grid-connected solar power plants by the year 2022.
- **Launch of International Solar Alliance (ISA):** An action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies.
- **Other Government Schemes:** Such as Canal bank & Canal top Scheme, Bundling Scheme, Grid Connected Solar Rooftop Scheme etc.
- **One Sun One World One Grid**: India has an ambitious cross-border power grid plan 'One Sun One World One Grid' that seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others.

LIVEMINT Page 10

DIGITAL FORM OF CURRENCY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Over 7% of Indians own digital currency; 7th highest in world

UNCTAD report said Ukraine topped the list with 12.7%, while the US has 8.3% share

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

Over 7% of India's population owns digital currency, according to the UN, which said that the use of cryptocurrency rose globally at an unprecedented rate during the covid-19 pandemic.

The UN trade and development body, UNCTAD, said in 2021, developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of the population that owns cryptocurrencies. Ukraine topped the list with 12.7%, followed by Russia (11.9%), Venezuela (10.3%), Singapore (9.4%), Kenya (8.5%) and the US (8.3%). In India, 7.3% of the population owned digital currency in 2021, ranking seventh in the list of top 20 global economies for digital currency ownership as share of population. "Global use of cryptocurrencies has increased exponentially during the covid-19 pandemic, including in developing countries," UNCTAD said.

It said that while these private digital currencies have rewarded some and facilitate remittances, they are an unstable financial asset that can also bring social risks and costs. The policy brief titled "All that glitters is not gold: The high cost of leaving cryptocurrencies unregulated" examines the reasons for the rapid uptake of cryptocurrencies in developing countries, including facilitation of remittances and as a hedge against currency and inflation risks.

> Developing nations accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of population that owns cryptocurrencies

It said that recent digital currency shocks in the market suggest that there are private risks to holding crypto, but if the central bank steps in to protect financial stability, then the problem becomes a public one. "If cryptocurrencies become a widespread means of payment and even replace domestic currencies unofficially (a process called cryptoization), this could jeopardise the monetary sovereignty of countries," it said.

In developing countries with unmet demand for reserve currencies, stablecoins pose particular risks. For some of these reasons, the IMF has said that cryptocurrencies pose risks as legal tender, it said.

The policy brief titled "Public payment systems in the digital era: Responding to the financial stability and security-related risks of cryptocurrencies" focuses on the implications of cryptocurrencies for the stability and security of monetary systems, and to financial stability.

Recent steps towards CBDC:

- The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23.
- Government amended section of the RBI Act, 1934 through the Finance Bill 2022.
- India's official digital currency is likely to debut by early 2023

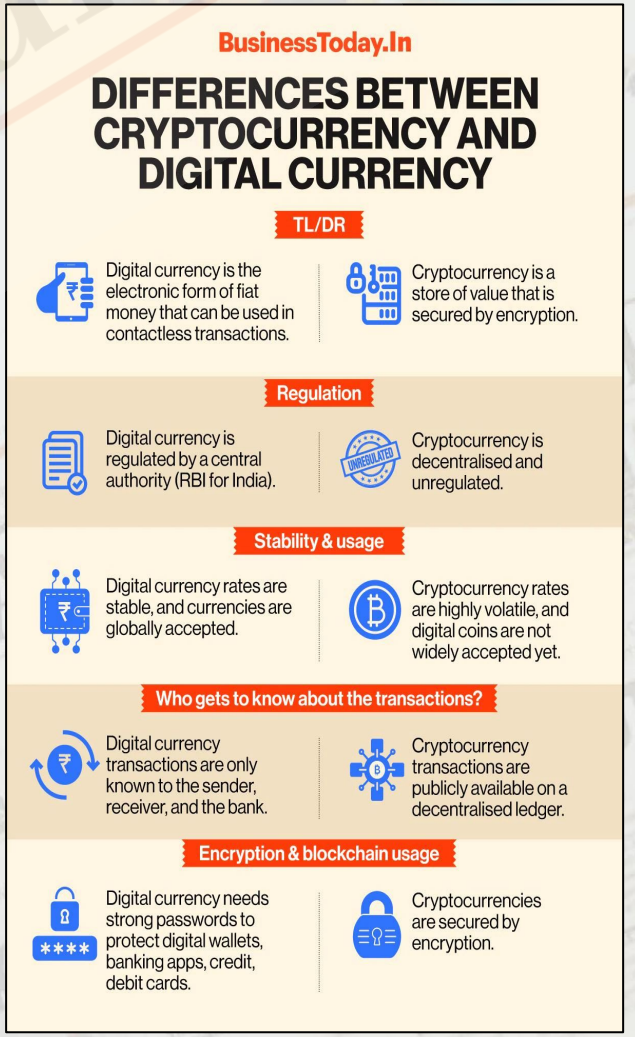
Fiat Money

- Government-issued currency that is not backed by a commodity such as gold.
- Gives central banks greater control over the economy because they can control how much money is printed.

Context: he use of cryptocurrency rose globally at an unprecedented rate during the covid-19 pandemic.

Recent steps towards CBDC:

- The digital form of a country's fiat currency.
- Instead of printing paper currency or minting coins, the central bank issues electronic tokens.
- This token value is backed by the full faith and credit of the government.
- CBDC is not comparable with private virtual currencies or cryptocurrencies.
- It will be a sovereign-backed digital currency.



THE HINDU Page 16

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Economy & Social issue)

Youth employment declined in India, says ILO report

'COVID-19 has hurt youth more than any other age group'

A.M. JIGEESH
NEW DELHI



Job hunt: People waiting for work in Manesar Industrial Area, in Haryana. ▪AP

India experienced severe working-hour and employment losses in 2020 and 2021, and Indian youth employment deteriorated in 2021 compared with the 2020 situation, according to the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022 report released by the International Labour Organisation on Thursday. The recovery in youth employment is still lagging globally, the report says confirming that COVID-19 has hurt young people more than any other age group.

It finds that the pandemic has worsened the numerous labour market challenges facing those aged between 15 and 24. Youngsters in this age group experienced a much higher percentage loss in employment than adults since early 2020. "The total global number of unemployed youth is estimated to reach 73 million in 2022, a slight improvement from 2021 (75 million), but still six million above the pre-pandemic level of 2019," the report said.

In India, the report said surveys conducted by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy show that the youth employment participation rate declined by 0.9 percentage points over the first nine months of 2021 relative to its value in 2020, while it increased by 2 percentage points for adults over the same time period.

It also warns that the unemployment rate of young people in the Asia and Pacific region is projected to reach 14.9% in 2022, the same as the global average, although there are important divergences between subregions and countries.

In India, the report added that school closures lasted 18 months and among the 24 crore school-going children, only 8% of such children in rural areas and 23% in urban areas had adequate access to online education.

"Given the deeply unequal access to online resources in developing countries, children from socio-economically disadvantaged families, which are the large majority, had almost no access to education," the report said.

It said school closures not only prevented new learning, but also led to the phenomenon of "learning regression", that is, children forgetting what they had learned earlier. "In India, 92% of children on average lost at least one foundational ability in language and 82% lost at least one foundational ability in mathematics," the report said citing studies.

It appreciated the MGNREGA and said it has played an important role in providing paid employment, particularly for women, but also in carbon sequestration because of the Act's focus on natural resources, such as land, water and trees, which provide adaptation benefits.

Context: India experienced severe working-hour and employment losses in 2020 and 2021, and Indian youth employment deteriorated in 2021 compared with the 2020 situation.

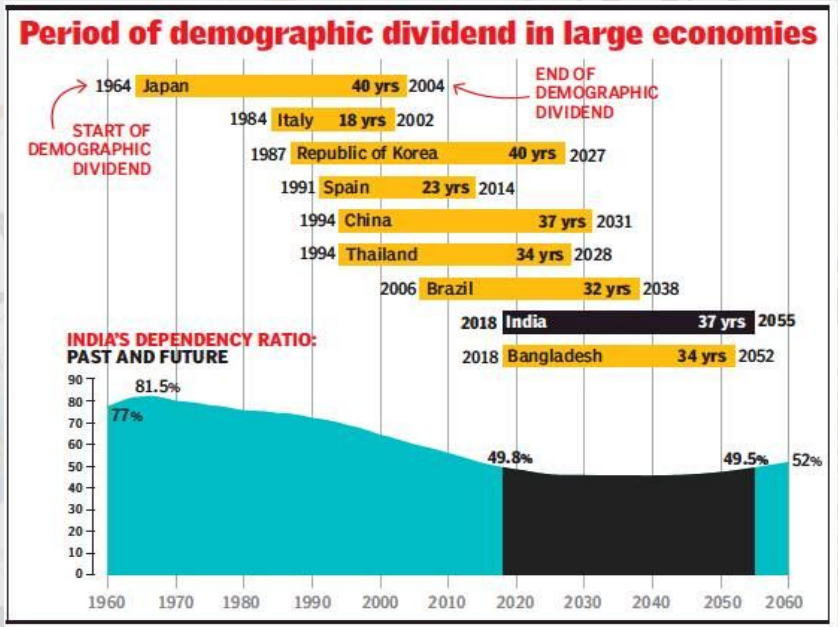
Definition of unemployment and employment

- National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) defines employment and unemployment on the following activity statuses of an individual:
  - Working (engaged in an economic activity) i.e. 'Employed'.
  - Seeking or available for work i.e. 'Unemployed'.
  - Neither seeking nor available for work.
  - The first two constitute the labour force and unemployment rate is the percent of the labour force that is without work.
  - Unemployment rate = (Unemployed Workers / Total labour force) × 100

'YOUTH IN INDIA 2022' REPORT

State/Union Territory	% of youth in total population of State/UT		
	2021	2031	2036
Bihar	28.8	27.7	25.5
Himachal Pradesh	25.1	21.4	19.5
Kerala	22.1	20	19.2
Madhya Pradesh	27.7	25.3	24.7
Maharashtra	26.1	22.5	21
Rajasthan	28.7	25.8	24.6
Tamil Nadu	23.2	20.4	19.1
Uttar Pradesh	29.9	26.3	25.1
India	27.2	24.1	22.7

Source: Youth in India 2022 Report, MoSPI
Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 2020



THE HINDU Page 18

CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT (CAD)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

'CAD will ease as commodity prices dip'

Items that guzzled foreign exchange are seeing price declines, says government official

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Concerns about India's trade and current account deficits are likely to dissipate in view of the recent decline in global commodity prices, a top government official said on Thursday, asserting that criticism which equated the country's import duties to a protectionist approach in trade was misplaced.

"Most of the foreign exchange guzzlers that have led to a wider trade deficit for India are seeing a decline in prices in the last few days, be it crude oil, fertilizers, or even coal and gold. When prices are down, the current account deficit will also go down over time," the official explained. India's monthly goods trade deficit has hit record highs in the past few months, peaking in July, when it crossed $31 billion. With exports growth slowing down and imports continuing to rise sharply, driven by higher prices of commodities with inelastic demand, economists expect the current account deficit to cross 3% of GDP this year from 1.2% in 2021-22.



Think local: Broadly, goods whose demand can be met locally will attract customs duties, the official said. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

On the imposition of import duties on goods over the last couple of years, the official stressed just counting the items since the unveiling of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat programme was misleading as it suggested an 'inward looking' stance. "Unlike in the past, when customs duties were tweaked in an indiscreet and uncalibrated manner, often to suit just one business or another, our approach to imposing tariffs is driven by item-wise data analysis. Broadly, goods whose demand can be met locally will attract customs duties," the official said.

If the Centre could give even 50% more funds to States than their monthly dues, we will do it

Tax transfers to States

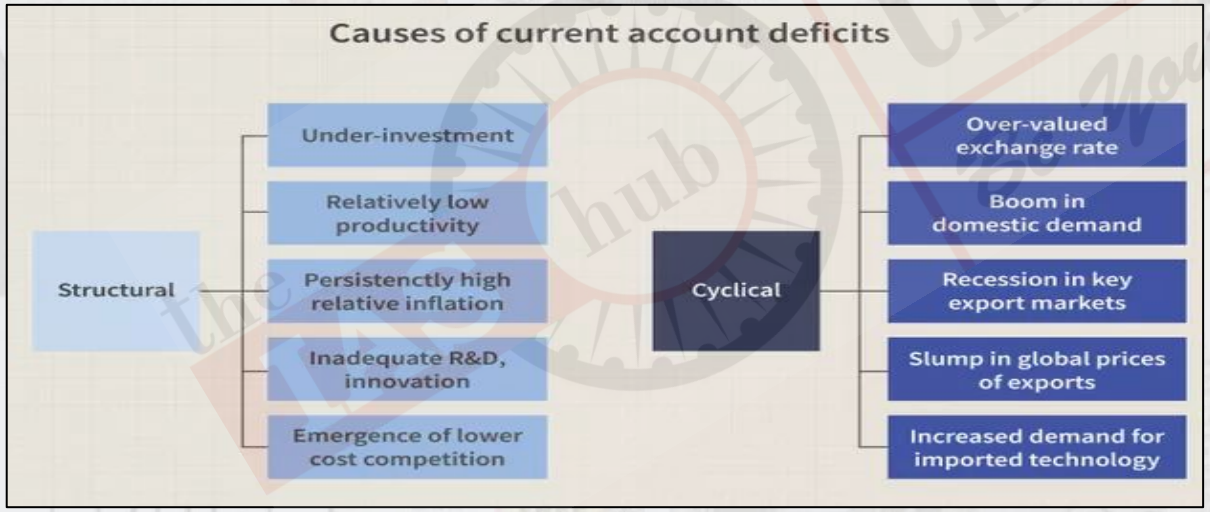
The Centre plans to devolve more funds to the States from their share of the divisible pool of taxes whenever it is possible, in a bid to drive faster spending on capital projects at the ground level, the official added.

On Wednesday, the Centre released more than ₹1.16 lakh crore to States as their share for August, equivalent to two monthly instalments of tax devolution.

'Action belongs to States'

"If we are able to give even 50% more funds to States than their monthly instalment, we will give it right away," the official said.

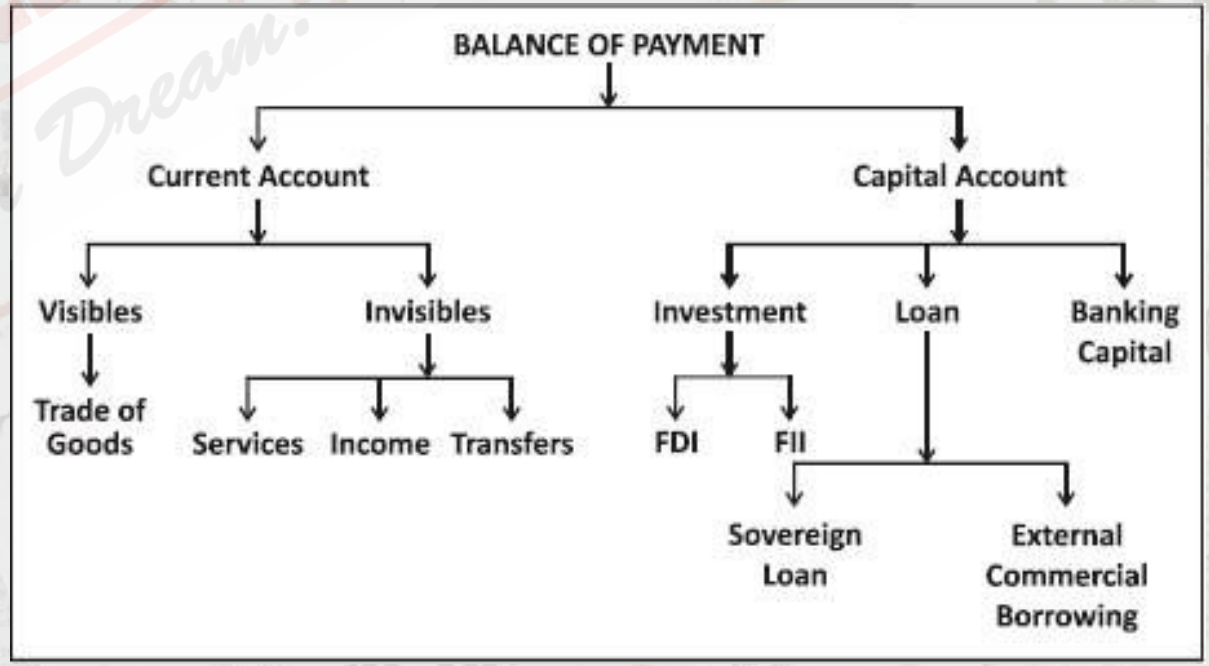
"This is vital because action happens in the States and the Centre is not interested in keeping their funds in its accounts for even a single extra day," the official pointed out.



Context: India's monthly goods trade deficit has hit record highs in the past few months.

Current Account Deficit (CAD)

- A **CAD occurs** when the total value of goods and services a country imports exceeds the total value of goods and services it exports.
- The **balance of exports and imports** of goods is referred to as the trade balance.
- **Trade Balance** is a part of 'Current Account Balance'.
- **According to an earlier report of 2021,** High Oil Imports, High Gold Imports are the major driving force, widening the CAD.



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 16

GLOBAL TERRORIST DESIGNATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal security)

China blocks India-US bid to blacklist Pak-based terrorist

Shielding Azhar's Brother Exposes Double Standards: Delhi

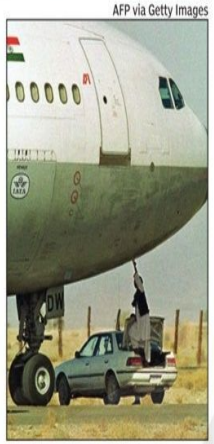
Sachin.Parashar
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: China has put on hold a joint India-US proposal to sanction a Pakistan-based terrorist, Abdul Rauf Asghar, an accused in the 1999 IC-814 hijacking, the 2001 Parliament attack and the 2016 attack on an Indian Air Force base in Pathankot.

While this is the second time in two months that Beijing has sought to delay sanctioning of terrorists operating from Pakistan, the latest move comes at a time it is hoping India will support China's efforts to defend its "sovereignty and security" on the Taiwan issue.

Asghar is also the deputy chief of UN designated terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed and brother of Maulana Masood Azhar, who heads the same organisation. Beijing had in June also blocked a proposal to designate deputy chief of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Abdul Rehman Makki, as a global terrorist.

AFP via Getty Images



A Taliban official receiving a paper with the IC-814 hijackers' demands at Kandahar Airport on December 27, 1999

Official sources reacted angrily to the development saying China's actions exposed its "double speak and double standards" on the issue of terrorism and the global community's shared battle against the menace.

"Such politically motivated actions by China in nearly every listing case of Pak-based terrorists undermine the entire sanctity of the working methods of the UNSC Sanctions Committees," said a source, adding it was unfortunate that the UNSC sanctions committee had been prevented from playing its role due to "political considerations". China had on several occasions blocked the listing of Masood Azhar too as global terrorist before finally relenting in 2019 under international pressure.

In Beijing, asked about the decision to put a technical hold on the Abdul proposal, the Chinese foreign ministry said China needed more time to assess the "relevant applications". India's permanent representative to UN Ruchira Kamboj had only this week called for ending the practice of placing holds and blocks on listing requests against notorious terrorists without giving any justification, while slamming double standards in the fight against terrorism.

According to sources, there is "incontrovertible" evidence to back the listing proposals for both Makki and Asghar and both individuals have also been sanctioned by the US under its domestic legislation.

A source said that while China put a technical hold on the India-US proposal in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee, all other 14 UNSC member states were supportive of the listing proposal.

Significantly, China's hold comes in the middle of its efforts to enlist India's support on the Taiwan issue. In an interview to TOI last week, Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong expressed hope that India would honour the "one-China principle" and support China's efforts to defend its sovereignty and security.

Context: China has blocked a move by India and the US to list Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) leader Abdul Rauf Azhar as a global terrorist at the UN Security Council.

UN terrorist designation

- **UNSC 1267 Committee of the UN Security Council:** established as a result of resolution 1267 (in 1999). It is also known as the AlQaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee.
- **Composition:** The Committee comprises all 15 members of the UNSC and decides unanimously and secretly.
- **Objective:** established for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of sanctions measures imposed on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan for its support of Osama bin Laden.
- **Impact:** If an individual/organisation is included in the 1267 list, it helps in restricting their movement, financial penalties and assets freeze among others.





DOWN TO EARTH

August 12

GLOBAL ACTION ON BRAIN HEALTH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Issue)



Air pollution will harm brain development, 9 of 10 people breathe polluted air

Annual loss in human capital arising from mental health conditions in children aged 0-19 is $387.2 billion

NEXT NEWS >

By Madhumita Paul

Published: Thursday 11 August 2022

Context: An astonishing 99 per cent of all people worldwide breathe polluted air and it severely affects the health and development of the human brain. (WHO report)

Brain health: defined as the state of brain functioning across cognitive, sensory, socio-emotional, behavioural and motor domains, allowing a person to realise their full potential, irrespective of the presence or absence of disorders.

Key Points

- The organisation called for establishing **brain health as a global policy priority**.
- Children who miss their developmental potential are projected to earn about 26 per cent less annually as adults.
- **Only 15 countries have family-friendly policy protections** to safeguard child brain development, such as - tuition-free pre-primary school education, legislation that supports breastfeeding and paid maternity and paternity leave.
- **Brain health can be optimised through five major determinants** - physical health, healthy environments, safety and security, learning and social connection and access to quality services.

Steps Taken by the Government for Promoting Mental Health

- **Constitutional Provision:** SC has held healthcare to be a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- **National Mental Health Program (NMHP)**: To address the huge burden of mental disorders and shortage of qualified professionals in the field of mental health.
- **Mental HealthCare Act 2017:** It guarantees every affected person access to mental healthcare and treatment from services run or funded by the government.
- **Kiran Helpline (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment):** to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.
- **Manodarpan (Ministry of Human Resources Development):** aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.

PIB

August 12

COAL PRODUCTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Economy)

Total Coal Production Goes up by 11.37 % to 60.42 Million Ton in July

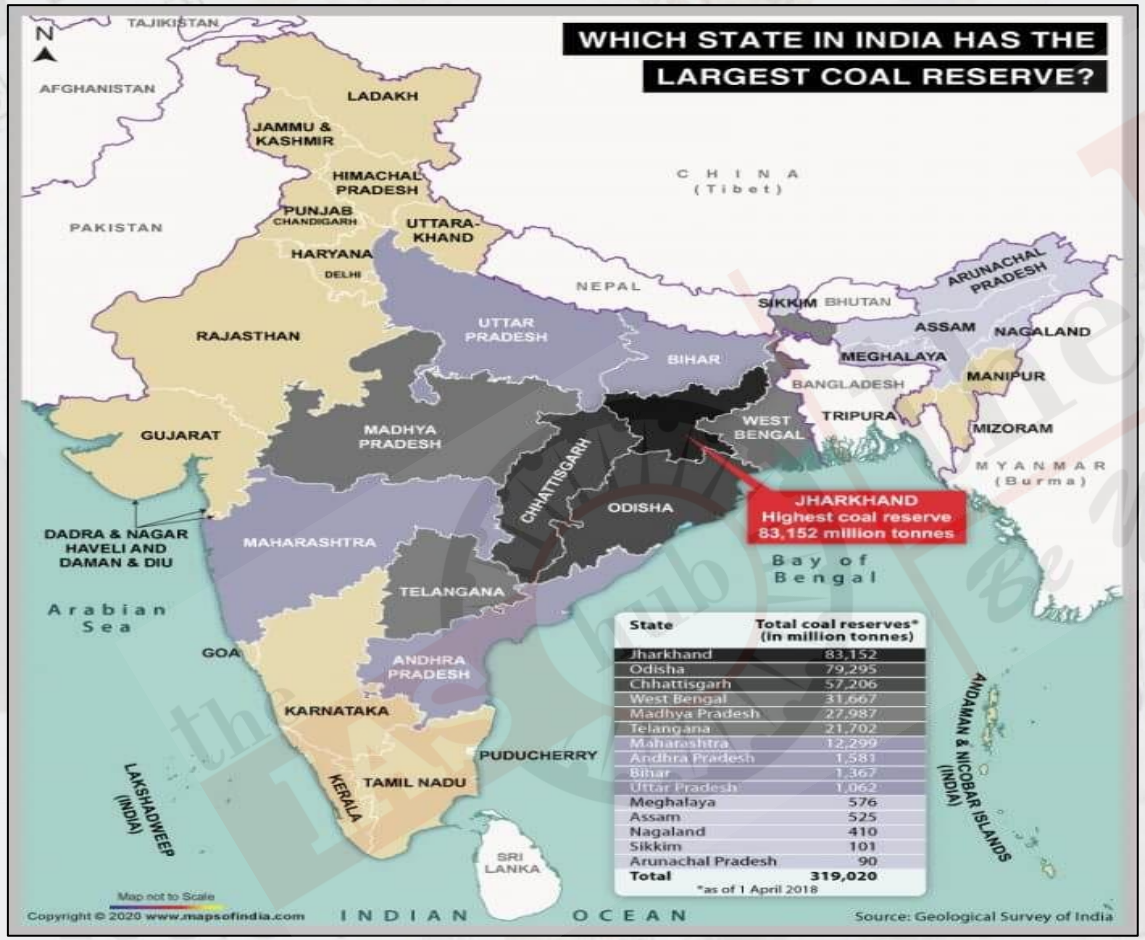
Twenty four Coal Mines Record More than 100% Production

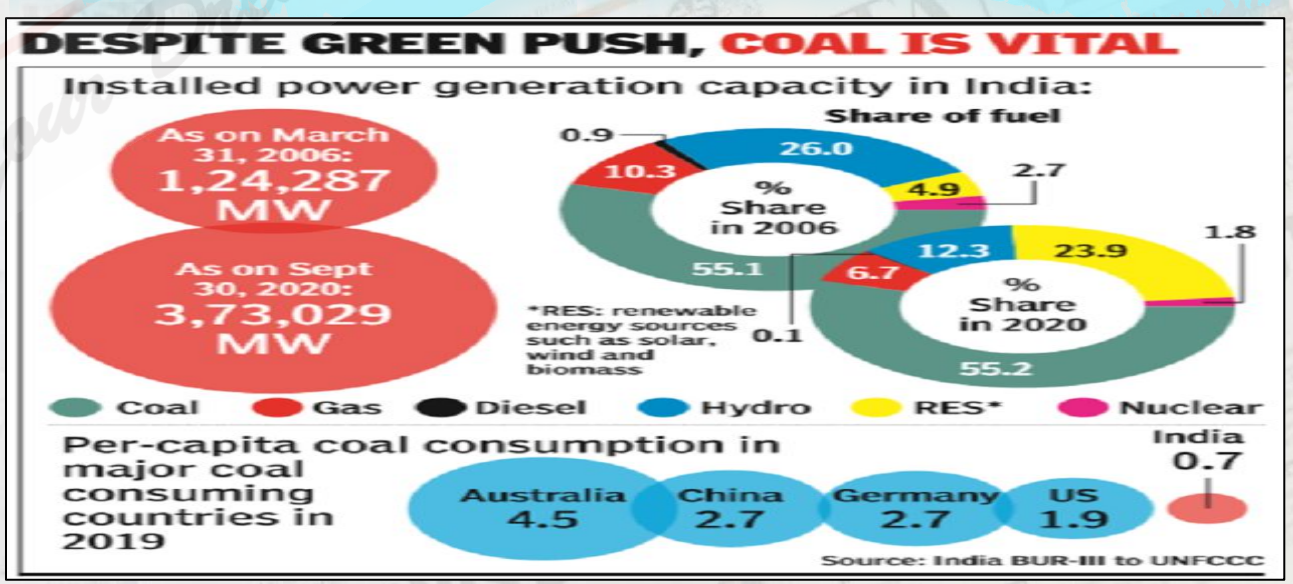
Posted On: 11 AUG 2022 2:06PM by PIB Delhi

Context: The overall coal production has increased by 11.37% to 60.42 million ton (MT) from 54.25 MT during July, 2022 as compared to July 2021.

Key points

- Of the top 37 coal mines, **production of 24 mines was more than 100 per cent** during July this year.
- Another seven mines' production stood between 80 and 100 percent.
- **Coal despatch increased** by 8.51% to 67.81 MT from 62.49 MT during July, 2022 as compared to the previous year.
- **CIL and captive mines/others registered a growth** of 8.17% % and 40.78% by dispatching 54.54 and 9.91 MT respectively.
- **The Power utilities despatch has grown** by 17.09% to 58.45 MT during July this year as compared to 49.92 MT in July 2021 due to increase in power demand.
- **Coal based power generation** has registered a growth of 4.76% in July 2022.
- The **overall power generation** in July 2022 has been 4.29% higher than in July 2021.





DST

August 12

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Scientific administrators discuss collaborations on emerging technologies with US delegation

Secretary DST, Dr S Chandrasekhar highlighted the importance of connecting the scientists from India and US to collaborate on emerging technologies such as AI and smart connected cities at a meeting with the US delegation led by Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director, National Science Foundation (NSF).

Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Professor Ajay K Sood as well as Secretaries of all scientific ministries and departments also participated in the meeting.

Emerging Technologies (ET)

- Emerging technology is a term generally used to describe a new technology, but it may also refer to the continuing development of an existing technology; it can have slightly different meaning when used in different areas, such as media, business, science, or education.
- **Key attributes that qualify a technology as emerging. These are:**
  - Radical novelty,
  - Relatively fast growth,
  - Coherence,
  - Prominent impact, and
  - Uncertainty and ambiguity.



THANK YOU!

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