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THE HINDU Page 1

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Sports & Awards)



Winning moment: Argentina players celebrate the winning penalty by Gonzalo Montiel in the the shoot-out against France that secured the South American team's third FIFA World Cup title. GETTY IMAGES

Messi's Argentina on top of the world

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

On a star-kissed night in the bejewelled Lusail Stadium, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe – the standout stars of this World Cup – scored two and three goals respectively to deliver a memorable final that will be forever etched in the memories of those who were here. Argentina's 36-year wait was finally over with a 4-2 victory in a shoot-out after being tied 3-3 at the end of the extra-time.

Argentina took an early lead when Messi scored from the penalty after Angel Di Maria was brought down inside the box.

Di Maria, back in the line-up after playing just eight minutes in the quarterfinals, soon added the second for the South Americans as the French defence was nowhere to be found and all seemed lost for *Les Bleus*.

Hitting back

The twists and the turns arrived in a span of two second-half minutes when Argentina conceded twice – first from a Mbappe penalty and then another from the same man. Messi's goal in the extra-time was again cancelled off by his PSG teammate's hat-trick strike. The winner was picked after Argentina 'keeper Emiliano Martinez saved one penalty and saw another sail wide in the shoot-out, while the Argentine players converted the four efforts they took.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 15

Context: The **Argentina national football team has won three FIFA World Cups**, one in 1978 and one in 1986, and now in 2022, making them one of the most successful national teams in the world.

- Argentina was runner-up three times, in 1930, 1990, and 2014.
- In 18 World Cup tournaments, Argentina have 47 victories in 87 matches.
- The team was present in all but four of the World Cups, being behind only Brazil and Germany in number of appearances.
- **France won the 2018 edition** of the FIFA World Cup in Russia.

FIFA World Cup

- **About**: The FIFA World Cup is **considered to be the pinnacle of international footballing events** since its inception in 1930.
  - The tournament is held at a duration of every four years since its inaugural edition, except for the 1942 and 1946 editions, which were canceled due to World War 2.
  - **Maximum FIFA World Cup title**: Brazil has emerged as the most successful team at the FIFA World Cup events so far with a total of **five titles** to their credit so far.
  - The **first World Cup final decided in the penalty shootout** was played between Brazil and Italy on July 18, 1994, at Rose Bowl in Pasadena.
- **FIFA 2022**: A total of **32 nations** took part in the group stage of the tournament.
  - While the teams had been divided into **eight groups of four teams each**, the top two teams from each group advanced into the next round.
- **Mascot**: The mascot for the FIFA World Cup 2022 is '**La'eeb'.**
  - It is inspired by the **keffiyeh**, a traditional headdress worn by Arab men.
  - 'La'eeb' in Arabic translates to '**super-skilled player'**, in anticipation of the hundreds of footballers about to land in the country.
  - It is made of a piece of clothing.
- **Host country for 2022**: Qatar
  - It is the **first Arab nation** to host the tournament.
- **Shortest world cup**: At 29 days from start to finish (20 November to 18 December), 2022 was the **shortest World Cup** since Argentina 1978.
- **India in FIFA:** The Indian team qualified for the FIFA World Cup held in Brazil in **1950**. But despite this, the team **did not play in the World Cup** due to a habit of playing barefoot.
  - According to the rules of FIFA, it was **mandatory to play in the World Cup by wearing shoes**.

BUSINESS STANDARD

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Four years and four challenges of RBI governor

Shaktikanta Das is nimble-footed and open to ideas — a trapeze artist, and a master of the finest balancing act who listens to all but takes his own decisions



BANKER'S TRUST

TAMAL BANDYOPADHYAY

The 87-year-old Indian central bank has seen 25 governors. Benegal Rama Rau had the longest tenure — a little over seven and a half years, from July 1, 1949 to January 14, 1957.

Of the eight Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governors who have held office since the economic liberalisation of 1991, Bimal Jalan had the longest stint and S Venkitaramanan the shortest.

Shaktikanta Das will overtake Jalan when he completes his second term in December 2024. In fact, after Rama Rau, Das will be the second governor in the RBI's history to be at the helm for at least six years.

His fifth year started last week.

In the post-liberalisation era, Das, a 1980-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, has the most challenging assignment. An economy dreaming of soaring to $5 trillion sank into "technical" recession as the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world in 2020. Das ratcheted the interest rate down to a historic low, flooded the system with money, and tried to tackle the unprecedented crisis with several measures, including unconventional ones.

Those with a ringside view of the 1991 balance of payment crisis could say that Venkitaramanan, not Das, had the toughest assignment. Why?

Das faced the Covid-19 pandemic's challenge in an interconnected world where the Indian economy was the sixth-largest by nominal GDP and the RBI had a substantial international standing and was taken seriously. (By September 2022, India overtook the UK to become the world's fifth-largest economy.) And, the entire world faced the same challenge.

Venkitaramanan batted on a different pitch since the Indian economy was just a peripheral player in the early 1990s.

Incidentally, Das is the first governor after Venkitaramanan who has not studied economics.

Let's pick four challenges that Das has faced in his four years — two he has tackled well and two from which he can't take his eyes off as yet.

First, he has revived the relationship between the RBI and the government. When Das took over, it had reached its nadir. No wonder then that two successive governors before him had relatively shorter terms — Raghuram Rajan three years, and Urjit Patel a little more than two years (Patel resigned).

Das built bridges with the government by transferring record funds from the RBI reserves, following the recommendations of a committee headed by Jalan, but the amount was not as much as the government would have loved to have. He also won the hearts of the RBI insiders through the updation of the pension scheme — a contentious issue for decades. No wonder former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley used to describe him as a "bureaucrat's bureaucrat".

Many had felt the government's grip over the central bank would tighten when he walked into Mint Road. A three-year extension reaffirms the government's comfort with him, but he hasn't given up the central bank's independence.

Second, he has faced the crypto craze head-on even as the government's approach was somewhat ambivalent until recently. Private cryptocurrencies are a threat to our macroeconomic and financial stability, and will undermine the RBI's ability to deal with issues of financial and macroeconomic stability, he has said repeatedly.

Raising the red flag for investors, Das went to the extent of saying such assets have no underlying value whatsoever, "not even a tulip", referring to the Tulip Mania that gripped parts of Europe, especially Holland, in the 17th century, which ended in a spectacular crash.

Meanwhile, the RBI has already launched pilot projects for wholesale and retail central bank digital currency (CBDC). The CBDC will not substitute cryptocurrencies since it would not be a proxy for crypto, but it will create a new narrative and convince us that the RBI can face the challenges of the digital age, chin up.

The biggest challenge before Das is to bottle the inflation genie and manage the depreciation of the rupee in an orderly way

Yet another challenge before Das is to equip the central bank to tackle digital disruptions in the financial sector. Fintechs are expanding their domain, the rules of the game are changing, and many banks look vulnerable in the new regime. Das's job is cut out. He needs to ensure that the RBI is equipped with the skill and expertise to play the referee in the digital game. Otherwise, the disruptors could threaten the financial sector's stability.

The RBI took the first step in August 2022 when it stipulated that the lending business could be carried out by only those entities regulated by it, and kept third parties out of lending and collection of loan repayments. A month later, it spelt out the guidelines on digital lending.

Finally, the biggest challenge before Das is to bottle the inflation genie and manage the depreciation of the rupee in an orderly way. Retail inflation surged to 7.79 per cent in April 2022, the highest since May 2014, before starting to climb down. Till October 2022, retail inflation had been above the upper limit of the central bank's flexible inflation target band (4 per cent +/- 2 per cent) for 10 months in a row.

Meanwhile, on October 20, 2022, the rupee saw its weakest level — 83.29 a dollar. Since then, it has regained ground a bit. India's foreign exchange reserves, which dropped to $524.5 billion in the third week of October 2022 from their peak of $642 billion in September 2021, had risen to $564 billion by December 9.

Until Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Das kept the RBI's stance accommodative and wanted to continue with that as long as necessary to secure growth. But, as the global financial landscape dramatically changed since the war broke out, he could not afford to delay the unwinding.

He had informally started tightening by mopping up money through the reverse repo auctions at a higher price much earlier, but it was not enough when crude oil prices rose and high inflation was globalised.

Das took time to sense it. Even in the February 2022 policy, just after an expansionary Budget that pushed the Union government's gross borrowing for the year to a historic high of ₹14.3 trillion, passing on the job of pump-priming to the RBI, Das was unfazed. The central bank's rate-setting body left the rates unchanged then.

But, in quick succession, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raised the policy rate four times — from 4 per cent to 6.25 per cent by December. The first increase was announced in the first week of May, off-cycle, a month ahead of the slated MPC meeting and just 12 hours before the US Federal Reserve raised its policy rate by 50 basis points – the highest in 22 years – to tackle the worst inflation America has witnessed in four decades. One basis point is a hundredth of a percentage point.

After the 40-basis point increase in May, in India, three increases of 50 basis points each followed in June, August, and October, and in December came a 35-bps hike.

Let's wait to see when Das will press the pause button and reverse the cycle by cutting the policy rate. Y V Reddy is probably the only governor who raised rates throughout his five-year term; he didn't cut them even once.

Remember his February monetary policy statement, which quoted a famous Lata Mangeshkar song, "*Aaj phir jeene ki tamanna hai* (Today, I have the desire to live again)" from the 1965 film Guide, written by Shailendra? To his credit, he changed his stance quickly. Had he not done so, we would have seen Das singing the song's next line, "*Aaj phir marne ka irada hai* (Today, I have the intention to die again)".

He is nimble-footed and open to ideas — a trapeze artist, a master of the finest balancing act who listens to all but takes his own decisions.

The writer, a consulting editor with Business Standard, *is an author and senior advisor to Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd*
His latest book: Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Story
To read his previous columns, please log on to https://bankerstrust.in
Twitter: @TamalBandyo

RBI GOVERNOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Context: The 87 year old Indian central bank has seen 25 governors.

RBI Governor

- **Structure of RBI:** Reserve Bank of India is controlled by a **central board of directors**.
  - The directors are appointed for a **4-year term** by the Government of India in keeping with the Reserve Bank of India Act.
  - **The Central Board consists of:**
    - Governor
    - 4 Deputy Governors
    - 2 Finance Ministry representatives
    - 4 directors to represent local boards headquartered at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and New Delhi
      - The executive head of RBI is Governor.
      - The Governor is accompanied by 4 deputy governors.
- **Official Directors (central board of directors)**
  - **Full-time**: Governor and not more than four Deputy Governors
- **Non-Official Directors**
  - **Nominated by Government**: ten Directors from various fields and two government Official
  - **Others**: 4 Directors - one each from four local boards (regional)
- **History**: The **First Governor of RBI was Sir Osborne Smith** and the First Indian Governor of RBI was C D Deshmukh.
  - The **First woman Deputy Governor** of RBI was K J Udeshi.
  - The **only Prime Minister** who had been the Governor of RBI was Manmohan Singh.
  - **Benegal Rama Rau had the longest tenure** - a little over seven and a half years, from July 1, 1949 to January 14, 1957.
  - Of the eight Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governors who have held office since the economic liberalisation of 1991, **Bimal Jalan had the longest stint** and S Venkitaramanan the shortest.
  - The **current governor** of RBI (2021) is Shaktikanta Das.
  - Shaktikanta Das will overtake Jalan when he completes his second term in December 2024.
  - In fact, after Rama Rau, Das will be the second governor in the RBI´s history to be at the helm for at least six years.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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REVIEW OF A JUDGEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Context: The Supreme Court has **dismissed a petition filed by 2002 Gujarat riots victim Bilkis Bano**, seeking review of its May 2022 order which said the Gujarat government was the appropriate government to decide the prayer for remission by one of the 11 convicts handed life terms in her case, and let the state's 1992 remission policy apply in the matter.

Review of a Judgement

- **Constitutional Provision**: **Article 137** grants the SC the power to review its judgments or orders.
  - The Court has the **power to review its rulings to correct a "patent error"** and not "minor mistakes of inconsequential import".
  - A review is by **no means an appeal in disguise.** That means the Court is allowed **not to take fresh stock of the case** but to correct grave errors that have resulted in the miscarriage of justice.
- **Ground for review**: The Supreme Court has laid down three grounds:
  - **Discovery of new and important matter** or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence was not within the knowledge of the person seeking the review or could not be produced by him at the time when the order was made.
  - **Some mistake or error** apparent on the face of the record is found.
  - **Any analogous ground.**
    - It may not be exercised on the ground that the decision was erroneous on merits. That would be the province of a court of appeal.
    - A power of review is not to be confused with appellate power which may enable an appellate court to correct all manner of errors committed by the subordinate court.
- **Procedure**: A review petition must be **filed within 30 days of pronouncement** of the judgement.
  - Except in cases of death penalty, review petitions are **heard through "circulation" by judges** in their chambers, and not in an open court.
  - Lawyers make their case through **written submissions** and not oral arguments.
  - The judges who passed the verdict decide on the review petition as well.
- **Alternative after review**: The Curative Petition concept evolved by the Supreme Court of India in **Roopa Hurra v Ashok Hurra case (2002)** which can be heard after a review petition is dismissed.
  - The Curative Petition is the last chance available for the protection from the compensation of injustice in the court after the review petition is dismissed or has been exhausted.

REVIEW PETITION

The Supreme Court may under certain circumstances agree to review an earlier order or judgment

THE SUPREME Court has dismissed a petition filed by 2002 Gujarat riots victim Bilkis Bano, seeking review of its May 2022 order which said the Gujarat government was the appropriate government to decide the prayer for remission by one of the 11 convicts handed life terms in her case, and let the state's 1992 remission policy apply in the matter.

Plea for review

According to the Constitution, any ruling by the Supreme Court is in the normal course final and binding, and it becomes the law of the land. It is considered final because it provides certainty for deciding future cases.

However, the Constitution also gives, under Article 137, the Supreme Court the power to review its judgments or orders. This provision forms the legal basis for the filing of a "review petition".

Procedure for review

A review petition must be filed within 30 days of pronouncement of the judgment. Except in cases of death penalty, review petitions are heard through "circulation" by judges in their chambers. They are usually not heard in open court.

Lawyers in review petitions usually make their case through written submissions, and not oral arguments. The same judges who passed the original verdict usually also hear the review petition.

It is not necessary that only parties to a case can seek a review of the judgment on it. As per the Civil Procedure Code and the Supreme Court Rules, any person aggrieved by a ruling can seek a review. However, the court does not entertain every review petition filed.

In Bilkis Bano's case, Bilkis, through her advocate Shobha Gupta, had herself sought the review.

Grounds for review

There are narrow, specific grounds on which a review petition can be entertained. Therefore, the court has the power to review its rulings to correct a "patent error" — but not "minor mistakes of inconsequential import".

In a 1975 ruling, Justice Krishna Iyer said a review can be accepted "only where a glaring omission or patent mistake or like grave error has crept in earlier by judicial fallibility".

In a 2013 ruling, the Supreme Court laid down three grounds for seeking a review of a verdict it has delivered:

(i) the discovery of new and important matter or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence, was not within the knowledge of the petitioner or could not be produced by him;

(ii) a mistake or error apparent on the face of the record; or

(iii) any other sufficient reason. In subsequent rulings, the court specified that "any sufficient reason" means a reason that is analogous to the other two grounds.

In another 2013 ruling (*Union of India v. Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores Ltd*), the court laid down nine principles on when a review is maintainable. "A review is by no means an appeal in disguise whereby an erroneous decision is reheard and corrected but lies only for patent error," the court said. It added that the mere possibility of two views on the subject cannot be a ground for review.

Success of review pleas

It is rare for the Supreme Court to either admit reviews or to overturn an original decision in a review.

It did agree to review its 2018 verdict in the Sabarimala case, but refused to review its ruling seeking a probe into the Rafale deal.

As the court of last resort, the Supreme Court's verdict cannot result in a miscarriage of justice. So, in *Roopa Hurra v Ashok Hurra* (2002), the court itself evolved the concept of a curative petition, which can be heard after a review is dismissed to prevent abuse of its process. A curative petition is also entertained on very narrow grounds like a review petition, and is generally not granted an oral hearing. It is yet to be seen if Bilkis Bano will take this route.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LIVEMINT

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CLASSIFICATION OF INDIAN CITIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Society)

Tier 2, 3 regions grab a larger pie of e-com market

Staff Writer
feedback@livemint.com



Smaller cities accounted for nearly 63% of total orders. ISTOCK

Tier 2 and 3 cities cornered a greater share of India's e-commerce market over the last 12 months, with easy access to large assortments of products prompting shoppers in under-penetrated markets to turn to online purchases, according to a report by Unicommerce.

E-commerce market share of tier 3 cities grew from 34.2% in 2021 to 41.5% in 2022, while tier 2 cities rose from 19.4% to 21.4% during the period. At the same time, market share of tier 1 cities dipped from 46.4% in 2021 to 37.1% in 2022, the report added. Unicommerce analyzed data from over 500 million orders that were processed in the last two years.

Unicommerce provides the e-commerce and retail industry with an integrated supply chain technology platform.

The move hints at a growing appetite among India's small city shoppers to buy everything online, including mobile phones, apparels as well as packaged goods. More than six out of 10 orders shipped in 2022 were for buyers in tier 2 and beyond cities. Orders from tier 3 towns rose by over 65% from the year earlier, it added.

E-com market share of tier 3 grew from 34.2% in 2021 to 41.5% in 2022, and from 19.4% to 21.4% for tier 2 cities

growing at a faster clip compared to tier 1 markets. According to Unicommerce, the next stage of e-commerce growth in India is being powered by users living outside big cities.

"The e-commerce industry in tier 2 and tier 3 cities has been growing consistently over the last two years. The young aspirational consumers in these regions are becoming more experimental in their choices, boosted by the flexibility and convenience offered by e-commerce. Fashion, beauty, and personal care continue to be prominent categories. However, businesses focusing on tier two and beyond regions have two key concerns—cash on delivery orders and low average order value.

COD leads to higher returns, therefore brands are offering

Context: **Tier 2 and 3 cities** cornered a greater share of India's e-commerce market over the last 12 months, with easy access to large assortments of products prompting shoppers in under-penetrated markets to turn to online purchases.

- E-commerce market share of **tier 3 cities grew from 34.2% in 2021 to 41.5% in 2022,** while tier 2 cities rose from 19.4% to 21.4% during the period.
- At the same time, **market share of tier 1 cities dipped from 46.4%** in 2021 to 37.1% in 2022

Classification of Indian Cities into Tiers

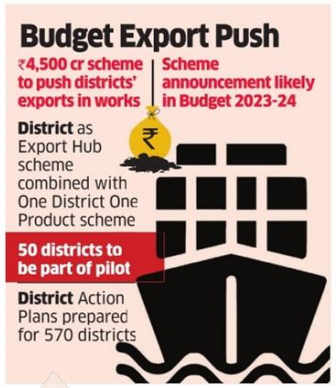
- **About**: Cities in India have been classified into **Tier 1, 2 and 3 categories.**
  - The most **developed** ones are called tier 1 and the **underdeveloped** ones are called tier 2 and tier 3 cities.
- **Current way of classification**: India has been divided into **various categories by the Pay Commission**.
  - The classification of Indian cities is a ranking system used by the Government of India to allocate **House Rent Allowance (HRA)** to public servants employed in cities in India.
  - The earlier HRA of the cities was changed from A**1 to X;A, B1 and B2 to Y and C and unclassified cities to Z.**
  - Now X, Y and Z are known as **Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3** cities respectively.
- **Current status**: There are eight X cities and 97 Y cities in India.
  - **X Cities**: In X category of cities the **HRA is 24% of the basic pay.**
    - **8 X cities/ Tier-1 cities:** Pune, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad.
  - **Y Cities**: If the HRA of the people's serving in Government organization is **16% of their basic pay** the city falls under Y category
  - **Z Cities**: In case the HRA is 8% of the basic pay the city is called as Z Category city.
- **Population-based classification**: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) classifies centres into six tiers based on population.
  - **Tier 1**: 1,00,000 and more Population
  - **Tier 2**: 50,000 to 99,999 Population
  - **Tier 3**: 20,000 to 49,999 Population
  - **Tier 4**: 10,000 to 19,999 Population
  - **Tier 5**: 5000 to 9999 Population
  - **Tier 6**: less than 5000 Population

ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Indian Economy)

BOOST TO EXPORTS

Budget may Allocate ₹4,500 Crore to Promote Districts as Export Hubs for Specific Products



Kirtika.Suneja@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India could in the upcoming budget unveil a plan to promote districts as hubs of exports of specific products. The commerce and industry ministry is working on an integrated scheme that combines Districts as Export Hub (DEH) and One District One Product (ODOP), which is likely to be announced in Budget FY24, officials said.

The scheme could be provided an allocation of ₹4,500 crore.

"We have integrated the two schemes and the aim is to boost rural entrepreneurship and exports of novel, indigenous, organic, and ethnic products," said an official.

The boost to exports is being planned when the growth in the country's outbound shipments were flat in November at $31.99 billion as against $31.8 billion a year ago.

Initially, a pilot with 50 districts could be started, which would then be expanded to the 733 districts of the country. The districts will be assessed on parameters such as export plans and efforts to plug infrastructure and logistics gaps.

Commerce and industry ministry has identified products and services with export potential in each district

As per the official, the 50 districts for the pilot project would be chosen through the challenge route.

The ministry has identified products and services — including Geographical Indications and other significant products—with export potential in each district.

The framework of the DEH initiative comprises formation of District Export Promotion Committee and preparation of District Export Strategy or Action Plan. District Export Promotion Committee and State Export Promotion Committee have been constituted in all the 36 states and UTs.

Officials said that the Draft District Action Plan has been prepared for 570 districts and the ministry has developed a web portal to monitor the progress of these plans.

The ODOP Initiative seeks to convert each district into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.

"While the integrated scheme will benefit exporters, the government should devise a mechanism in the selected districts for the endorsement and branding of their products," said an industry representative, adding that local manufacturers and small exporters should be connected to provide a global platform to market their products.

Context: The **commerce and industry ministry** is working on an integrated scheme that combines Districts as Export Hub (DEH) and One District One Product (ODOP), which is likely to be announced in Budget FY2.

One District One Product (ODOP)

- **About**: The **'One District, One Product (ODOP) was later launched in 2018,** to help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.
  - It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** to be shared by the central government and states in 60:40 contributions.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Food Processing Industries.**
- **Merged with the 'Districts as Export Hub' initiative:** ODOP initiative is operationally merged with the '**Districts as Export Hub' initiative** being implemented by DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.
  - The **Department of Commerce through DGFT** is engaging with State and Central Government agencies to promote the initiative of One District One Product.
- **Origin**: It was **launched in January 2018, by the Uttar Pradesh Government**, and due to its success, was later adopted by the Central Government.
  - ODOP is basically **a Japanese business development concept,** which gained prominence in 1979.

District Export Hub Initiative

- **About**: Under the scheme, **District Export Promotion Committees(DEPCs)** have been constituted in most of the districts and products and services with export potential have been identified in each district.
  - It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
  - The Scheme is a part of the **new Foreign Trade Policy(FTP).**
- **Aim**: To help producers across 200 districts scale up manufacturing and find foreign buyers for their goods.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of **Commerce and Industry.**
- **Implementing Body**: Directorate General of Foreign Trade(DGFT).

TIMES OF INDIA

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FRONTIER NAGALAND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Separate state demand: MHA to seek views of Nagaland govt

Kohima: An MHA team constituted by the Centre to study a statehood demand in eastern Nagaland is likely to meet officials and elected representatives here on Monday and seek the government's views on the matter, officials said.

The three-member team headed by advisor for MHA (northeast) A K Mishra, and comprising Intelligence Bureau joint director Mandeep Singh Tuli and ministry of home affairs (MHA) northeast division Director A K Dhayani arrived in Kohima on Sunday.

The team, which is in the northeastern state since Friday, straightaway went to Tuensang and held closed-door meetings with Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) office-bearers.

On Saturday, they met leaders of seven tribal hohos (organisations), Eastern Nagaland Women's Organisation, Eastern Nagaland students federation, Gaon Burahs (village chieftains) and deputy commissioners and SPs of the six districts in the region.

Meanwhile, ENPO statehood demand talk team leader K Asungba Sangtam, a former lawmaker, said that the central fact-finding team took note of their views and opinions expressed by other organisations. AGENCIES

Context: An MHA team constituted by the Centre to study a statehood demand in eastern Nagaland is likely to meet officials and elected representatives here and seek the government's views on the matter.

Frontier Nagaland

- **About:** The **Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation**, a pressure group representing the state's backward, hilly regions, demand for the creation of a separate state of "**Frontier Nagaland" comprising six backward districts of the state.**
- **Reason**: Eastern Nagas complain that their region, already **economically backward,** is further being ignored by the state government.
    - Eastern Nagaland comprises six districts – **Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire, Noklak and Shamator** – which are inhabited by seven Naga tribes: **Konyak, Khiamniungan, Chang, Sangtam, Tikhir, Phom and Yimkhiung.**
- **Historical aspects**: Much of Eastern Nagaland was marked as an **"excluded area"** during the British Raj meaning that the colonial government did not administer it and contact with the rest of the world was minimal.
    - In 1945, the region was i**ncluded under the North East Frontier Agency,** an administrative division established by the British, as the Tuensang Frontier Division.
    - In 1957, the **Tuensang Frontier Division was merged with the Naga Hills District of Assam** to form an administrative unit called the Naga Hills Tuensang Area.
    - The **Governor of Assam administered the Naga Hills Tuensang Area** under the control of the Centre's ministry of external affairs.
    - Though the Naga Hills Tuensang Area became the **full-fledged state of Nagaland in 1963**, special provisions were made for the then Tuensang Division, citing its relative backwardness.
    - For a decade, it was n**ot represented in the Nagaland Assembly** and instead had its own regional council headed by the deputy commissioner.
    - It was only in 1973 that the **region entered the Assembly.**
    - The six districts have **20 of the 60 Assembly seats in the state.**

PIB

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NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

PM addresses meeting of North Eastern Council in Shillong

Meeting marks golden jubilee celebration of the North Eastern Council

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the meeting of **North Eastern Council (NEC)** in Shillong.

- The meeting marks the **golden jubilee celebration of the North Eastern Council,** which was formally inaugurated in 1972.

North Eastern Council

- **About**: It is the **nodal agency for the social and economic development of the North Eastern Region** in India consisting of the 8 States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland and Tripura.
- **Origin**: The NEC came into existence by a Parliamentary Act called the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971** to act as an advisory body for socio-economic and balanced development of the North-Eastern Areas.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Development of North Eastern Region.**
- **Members**: The **Governors and the Chief Ministers** of the 8 states including Sikkim, Chairman and 3 members who are nominated by the President of India.
- **Key developments**: Subsequent to the **Amendment of 2002**, NEC has been mandated to function as a regional planning body for the North Eastern Area and while formulating a regional plan for this area, shall give priority to the schemes and projects benefiting two or more states provided that in the case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State.
    - The Union Cabinet, in June 2018, approved the proposal of **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** for the nomination of the Union **Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman** of North Eastern Council (NEC).
    - The Cabinet also approved that **Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER would serve as Vice Chairman of the Council.**

PIB

Dec 19

INDIA WATER IMPACT SUMMIT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

7th edition of India Water Impact Summit Concludes

Context: The **7th edition of the India Water Impact Summit concluded on 17th December 2022** after 3 days of fruitful deliberations on important aspects of water conservation and river rejuvenation, with special emphasis on revival of small rivers for the protection of large basins.

- On the final day of the 7th India Water Impact Summit, experts from water, environment and administrative sectors unanimously consented to an urgent need of forming a National River Framework in the country, which would determine the parameters for monitoring river health, process and responsibility.
- The **theme of the 7th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022)** is '**Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin**' with emphasis on the select aspects of Mapping and Convergence of **5Ps' - People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project.**

India Water Impact Summit

- **Organized by:** National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) along with the Centre for **Ganga River Basin Management and Studies(c-Ganga).**
  - **National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG)** was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
    - It acted as implementation arm of **National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA)** which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.**
    - The Act envisages five tier structure at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga.
  - The **Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)** was established at the Indian **Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) in 2016**.
    - The Centre is a **Centre of Excellence for data collection,** the creation and dissemination of knowledge and information for the sustainable development of Ganga River Basin.
- **Aim**: To enlighten the participants on the complexities and peculiarities as well as the scales of **managing the rivers across the basin.**

DTE

Dec 19

NIRBHAYA FUND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)



10 years of Delhi gang rape: 70% of released Nirbhaya Funds utilised, Lok Sabha told

Region-wise disparities in fund utilisation; Conviction rate in crimes against women continues to remain abysmal

NEXT NEWS >

By Taran Deol
Published: Friday 16 December 2022

Context: December 16, 2022, marks a decade of the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case in New Delhi. Around **70 per cent of the non-lapsable corpus fund** established in the aftermath of the horrific incident so far has been utilised, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development told the Lok Sabha on December 9, 2022.

Key Points

- Between 2014 and 2021, the **Nirbhaya Fund approved 35 projects across 10 ministries and departments**. However, issues persist.
- While such efforts may improve women's safety in India, **the conviction rate in crimes against women continues to remain abysmal** - at just 26.5 per cent in 2021, according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau.
- There have also been reports of Nirbhaya **Funds being used for situations not related to women's safety.**
- Most recently, Maharashtra government was accused of u**sing the Nirbhaya Fund for vehicles.**

Nirbhaya Fund

- **About**: Post-2012, **Nirbhaya Gang rape case**, a dedicated fund was set up in **2013** with the focus on implementing the initiatives aimed at improving the security and safety of women in India.
- **Funds**: The government's contribution towards the **non-lapsable corpus fund was Rs. 1000 crores.**
  - Under the Nirbhaya Fund, the **Centre gives money to the states**, which in turn spend it on programs meant for ensuring women's safety.
  - **Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF)** has been funded under the Framework of Nirbhaya Fund to support States/ UTs for their Victim Compensation Scheme.
  - The CVCF is a **one-time grant of top-up funds to the States/UTs** subsequent to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- **Funding pattern**
  - 60:40 for all States o 90:10 for States with difficult terrains
  - 100% for UTs
  - Few initiatives are 100% funded
- **Nodal agency**: Department of **Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance** is responsible for the administration of the fund.
  - The **Women and Child Development Ministry** is the nodal agency for expenditure from the Nirbhaya Fund.
  - it provides for an **Empowered Committee (EC)** of officers chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) to appraise and recommend proposals to be funded under this framework.

- **Schemes**:
  - 3 schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Nirbhaya Fund.
    - One Stop Centre'
    - 'Universalisation of Women Helpline'
    - 'Mahila Police Volunteer'
  - Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs are as follows:
    - Emergency Response Support System
    - Central Victim Compensation Fund
- **Current Status of the Fund**: Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Daman & Diu have not spent a single rupee from the Nirbhaya Fund allocated by the Union home ministry.
  - The Women and Child Development Ministry release money from the Nirbhaya Fund under four heads including the Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme. A total of 12 states were allocated fund under this scheme.
  - But of the 12 states, only four states utilized the Nirbhaya Fund money for the said purpose.

DTE

Dec 19

MODERN MAMMALS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

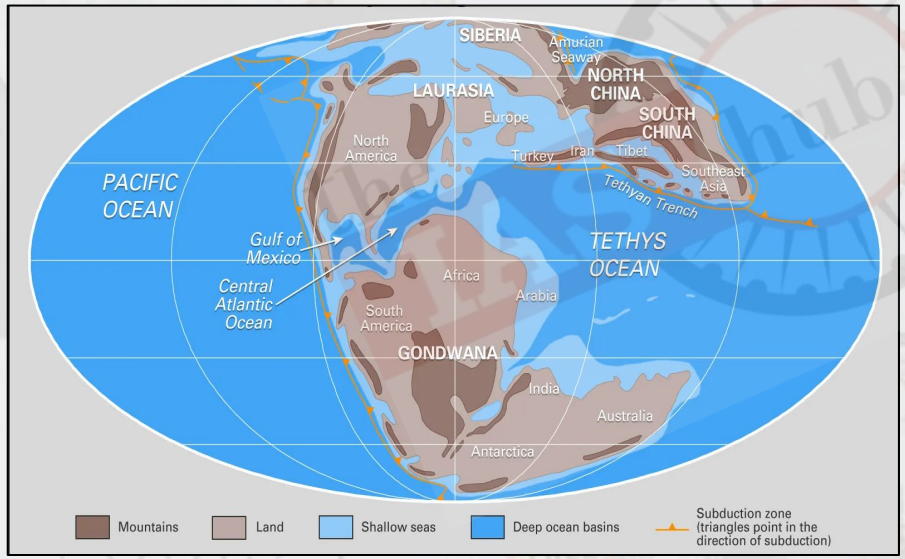
Gondwana 'wellspring' of mammalian evolution, not Laurasia: Research

Mammals evolved 50 million years earlier than thought in the southern supercontinent and migrated north from there

NEXT NEWS >

By Rajat Ghai
Published: Friday 16 December 2022





Context: Mammals may have evolved in **Gondwana**, the southern landmass formed from the supercontinent **Pangaea** millions of years, rather than its northern counterpart Laurasia, according to new research.

- The researchers studied the **molars of fossils found in Madagascar, South America and India** to come to this conclusion.

Key Findings of the study

- **Modern mammals consist of three sub groups**: Montremes, marsupials and placentals.
- **Montremes**: Montremes are **primitive mammals** that lay large eggs and have a common opening for the urogenital and digestive systems.
  - Montremes include the platypus and echidna of **Australia**.
- **Marsupials**: Marsupials are mammals whose young are born incompletely developed.
  - Marsupials are mostly **found in Australia and New Guinea.**
  - They develop inside a pouch on the mother's belly.
- **Placentals**: The third subgroup is placentals which carry t**he foetus until a late stage of development.**
  - Placentals comprise the **majority of mammals including humans.**
- **Therian mammals**: The **tribosphenic molars of therian mammals** found in early and middle Jurassic sediments from Madagascar, South America and India.
  - **'Theria' is a subclass of mammals** that includes marsupials and placentals but excludes montremes.
- **Marsupial paradise**: **Australia's current status as a 'marsupial paradise'** is proof that the findings could be true.
  - The **world's smallest continent** is home to the greatest mammalian diversity in the world, more than any other continent.
  - **Half of the o**ver 350 native mammals of Australia are marsupials including kangaroos, wombats, koalas, and Tasmanian devils.
  - There are also **montremes and placentals** like bats and rodents.
  - However, the **highest number of mammalian extinctions** in the world have also happened in Australia.

THANK YOU!

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