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सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

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UNION BUDGET 2023-24

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

FM Delivers Balanced Budget, Minus Freebies



SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

The budget achieves the hat-trick of greatly boosting capital spending, slashing taxes, and reducing the fiscal deficit. The BJP's love affair with the middle class will deepen with the raising of the tax exemption limit from ₹5 lakh to ₹7 lakh.

Yet this is not an election budget full of freebies. The PM-Kisan outlay for farmers remains unchanged in nominal terms and hence lower in real terms. Far from going on a pre-electoral spree, the budget cuts the fiscal deficit from 6.4% to 5.9% of GDP and projects a further fall of 0.7% per year for the next two years. That is exceedingly ambitious and will require excellent global conditions.

Gross tax revenues are projected to rise 10.5%, exactly in line with nominal GDP, so actual revenue could be higher if the recent buoyancy in taxes continues. Yet this well-balanced budget did not cheer stock markets—the Nifty drifted down 0.26%, mainly on account of the continuing debacle in Adani shares.

Capital expenditure is projected to rise a whopping 33%, with Railways (48%) and roads (24.4%) leading the way.

Shift from MGNREGA ▸▸ 15



Smooth Sailing on Deficit Path

Terming the budget 'beautifully balanced', FM Nirmala Sitharaman said India is all set to become a $5 trillion economy. She said the Centre had respected the fiscal glide path. ▸▸ 15

Context: The budget achieves the hat-trick of greatly **boosting capital spending, slashing taxes, and reducing the fiscal deficit**.

Highlights of Union Budget 2023-24

- **Personal income tax slabs revised**: The tax rebate limit increased to **Rs 7 lakh from Rs 5 lakh** in the new tax regime.
- **Seven Priorities**: Finance Minister named Seven Priorities of the Union Budget 2023-24 as the seven **'Saptarishis'** of the Amrit Kaal budget.
  - These are inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infra and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power, and the financial sector.
- **Three Focal Points of the Union Budget 2023-24**: Facilitating ample opportunities for citizens, providing a strong impetus to growth and job creation, and strengthening macroeconomic stability.
- **Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: The FM, in Union Budget 2023-24, announced that the government will establish a **Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to conduct research and development on AI based practices in education, agriculture, and pharma sectors.
- **PM-PRANAM**: PM **Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth** will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- **Atma Nirbhar Clean Plan programme:** The Centre will launch a Rs 2,200 crore **Atma Nirbhar Clean Plan programme.**

TIMES OF INDIA

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UDE DESH KA AAM NAGRIK

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Mission UDAN gets a lift, 50 small airports to be revived

TEAM TOI

Regional aerial connectivity will soon get a boost with the government going to revive old, unused airstrips across the country. "Fifty additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advanced landing grounds will be revived for improving regional air connectivity," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech on Wednesday.

In the last eight years, the number of airports in use has increased from 74 to 147, thanks to the subsidised regional connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN). Domestic air traffic recovery has been among the highest in India globally, post-Covid, and India is now the world's third largest aviation market. Over 1.1 crore flyers have taken UDAN flights in the last six years.

Low-cost Akasa Air founder and CEO Vinay Dube said: "The announcement of 50 additional airports and ramping up of air transport infrastructure will support the nation's growing demand for air travel. The focus on promoting domestic tourism will provide impetus to further revival of the sector and aligns with our vision to strengthen India's transportation system."

To give wings to its ambitious regional connectivity push, India had last year simplified the process of getting new types of aircraft as it opened its skies to flying machines not commonly seen here earlier, like seaplanes and four-seaters. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has removed the requirement of giving type acceptance of aircraft for short-term wet leasing (hiring with operating crew) of aircraft.



DREAMS GET WINGS

MakeMyTrip co-founder and group CEO Rajesh Magow said: "...the FM has highlighted tourism as a focus area. The Union Budget entails initiatives like revival of 50 airports, building of 50 new destinations, and high budgetary outlays on railways, roads, and highways, which will help long-term growth for the domestic travel and tourism industry."

UDAN has led to start-up regional airlines taking to the skies. Many existing, big players also participate in RCS in a big way.

Aviator Sanjay Mandavia, for instance, founded his regional carrier FlyBig in 2021 because of UDAN, with the first route being Guwahati-Rupasi. "As of now we have three 72-seater ATRs. We are inducting two 19-seater Twin Otters and are in discussion with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for the made-in-India Dornier 228. If those talks do not work out, we will opt for more Twin Otters. Our airline took off only because of the UDAN scheme," Mandavia said.

"The next round of aviation growth will come from tier-3 or -4 cities. People in small towns have big aspirations and are going to be the lift for Indian aviation in years to come," he added.

Context: In the last eight years, the number of airports in use has increased from 74 to 147 through the subsidised regional connectivity scheme (RCS) **'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN).**

Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)

- **About**: UDAN is a **regional connectivity scheme** spearheaded by the Government of India (GoI).
  - It aims to **develop smaller regional airports** to allow common citizens easier access to aviation services.
  - This scheme is a part of the **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)** and is funded jointly by the GoI and the state governments.
- **Salient features:**
  - The scheme duration is **for 10 years.**
  - Airlines participating in UDAN are selected through a **competitive bidding** process.
- **UDAN 1.0**: Under this phase, **5 airlines companies were awarded** 128 flight routes to 70 airports (including 36 newly made operational airports)
- **UDAN 2.0**: In 2018, the Ministry of Civil Aviation announced **73 underserved and unserved airports.**
  - For the first time, helipads were also connected under phase 2 of UDAN scheme.
- **UDAN 3.0**: Inclusion of **Tourism Routes under UDAN 3** in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism.
  - Inclusion of **Seaplanes** for connecting Water Aerodromes.
  - Bringing in a number of routes in the North-East Region under the ambit of UDAN.
- **UDAN 4.0:** The 4th round of UDAN was launched in December 2019 with a special **focus on North-Eastern Regions**, Hilly States, and Islands.
  - The airports that had already been developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are given higher priority for the award of **VGF (Viability Gap Funding) under the Scheme.**
  - Under UDAN 4, the operation of helicopters and seaplanes is also been incorporated.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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TCS RATE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Remittances high, low tax payment: Govt hikes TCS rate

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

TO TRACE high-value spending and tax avoidance by high net-worth individuals, the government Wednesday announced a sharp hike in the tax collected at source (TCS) rate — to 20 per cent from 5 per cent — on overseas tour packages and on certain remittances out of India under the liberalised remittance scheme (LRS).

This has been proposed with the exception of LRS remittances for education and medical treatment purposes.

Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said the measures have been taken based on information that people are making high-value remittances but their tax returns are not reflecting proportionate income tax payments. "It is our impression and there is enough information to indicate that there are quite a lot of people who are able to make these remittances but whose tax returns are disproportionately low compared to what they send as remittances. So that means if you don't collect tax at source, then you have to take measures later to catch them. That is much more difficult. If you are able to make remittances to invest in a property in Manhattan, or a stock brokerage account in Dubai or if you are going to take a 30-day tour of the world, almost certainly your effective tax rate will be 20 per cent," he said.

The Finance Bill, through the Budget 2023-24, amended Section 206C of the Income Tax Act levying a higher TCS on overseas tour programme packages. Also, 20 per cent TCS will be applicable on certain remit-

Context: To trace high-value spending and tax avoidance by high net-worth individuals, the government announced a sharp hike in the **tax collected at source (TCS) rate** - to 20 per cent from 5 percent - on overseas tour packages and on certain remittances out of India under the liberalised remittance scheme (LRS).

Tax collected at source (TCS) rate

- **About**: Tax Collected at Source, or TCS is a **tax imposed on goods by the seller,** who collects it from the buyer at the time of sale.
  - Section 206C of the **Income Tax Act, 1961** specifies the goods and services on which TCS is applicable.
  - The threshold for TCS on the sale of goods is Rs. 50 lakhs.
- **Difference from Tax Deducted at Source (TDS):**
  - TDS is the tax which is **deducted on a payment made by a company to an individual,** in case the amount exceeds a certain limit. TCS is the tax which is collected by sellers while selling something to buyers.
  - TDS deduction is **applicable on payment**s such as salaries, rent, professional fee, brokerage, commission, etc. TCS deduction is applicable on sales of goods like timber, scrap, mineral wood, and so on.
  - TDS is **applicable only on payments that exceed a certain amount**. TCS is applicable on sales of specific goods which don't include production or manufacturing material.

TDS	TCS
• Tax subtracted from a company's payment to an individual when the amount exceeds a predetermined threshold	• Tax that retailers must collect from customers when they make a purchase.
• Payments including salary, rent, professional fees, brokerage commissions, etc. are subject to TDS deduction	• Sales of goods like lumber, scrap, mineral wood, and other items are subject to the TCS.
• Only payments that surpass a particular threshold are subject to TDS.	• Sales of particular goods without production or manufacturing materials are subject to TCS.

PIB

FEB 2

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

G-20 theme based Workshops on Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and Madhya Pradesh Farm Gate to be organised

Context: On the occasion of India's presidency of the G-20, through the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', a one-day workshop on **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)** and Madhya Pradesh Farm Gate App is being organized on February 02, 2023 at Noronha Administrative Academy, Bhopal and on February 8, 2023 at Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur with the aim of encouraging the sense of global unity and increasing the participation of women in the field of agriculture.

- The main objective of this workshop is to **increase the participation of women** in the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and MP Farm Gate.
- Women farmers, women agricultural entrepreneurs, women Chartered Accountants, women bank representatives and women officers of various departments will participate in both the workshops.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

- **About**: It is a **central sector scheme** that will enable a financing facility of Rs.1 lakh crore for funding agriculture infrastructure projects at farm-gate and aggregation points such as farmers producers organisations, primary agricultural cooperatives, startups and entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector.
- **Origin**: It was **announced in May 2020 under the ambitious Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package** as a dedicated Central Government scheme that provides medium-long term credit facility for investment in creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Benefits**:
  - **Interest subvention**: All loans under this financing facility will have an **interest subvention of 3% per annum** up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
  - **Credit guarantee:** Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers under **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme** for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore. The fee for this coverage will be paid by the Government.
  - **Moratorium for repayment**: Moratorium for **repayment under this financing facility** may vary subject to a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 2 years.
- **Scheme beneficiaries**: **Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS)**, FPOs, Marketing Cooperative Societies, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Self-Help Groups, Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Startups, agri entrepreneurs, Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 3

SENIOR CITIZEN SAVINGS SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

ONE FOR *MAHILA SAMMAN*, TWO FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

FM proposes new scheme for women, doubles investment limit for SCSS, POMIS

SARBAJEET K SEN
Gurugram, 1 February

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced major changes in the small savings schemes bucket with a doubling of the maximum investment limit under the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) and the Post Office Monthly Income Plan (POMIS).

In her 2023-24 Union Budget speech on Wednesday, Sitharaman also announced the introduction of a limited period scheme for women — the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) — under which deposits can be made in the name of a woman or a girl child. The scheme will offer a fixed return of 7.5 per cent and will be available for two years, till March 2025. The scheme will also have a partial withdrawal facility. The maximum deposit permitted under the scheme will be ₹2 lakh.

The maximum investment limit under SCSS has been hiked from ₹15 lakh to ₹30 lakh, while that of POMIS has been raised from ₹4.5 lakh to ₹9 lakh, under a single name. For a joint account, the POMIS limit has been enhanced to ₹15 lakh from ₹9 lakh.

The SCSS, which offers an interest rate of 8 per cent at present, is open to individuals who are 60 years or above at the time of opening an SCSS account. Those who have attained the age of 55 years, but are below the age of 60 years and have retired on superannuation, are eligible to open an SCSS account, provided they invest within a month after retirement. The scheme has a lock-in period of 5 years and interest is paid quarterly. "SCSS is giving good returns. However, one should stagger their investments in the instrument since future interest rates are not known," Parul Maheshwari, an independent investment advisor, said.

Under the POMIS scheme, investors receive monthly income in the form of interest. The present rate of interest is 7.1 per cent. "POMIS is a relatively less attractive scheme even if one was to compare it to current bank fixed deposit rates. Also, it is important to keep in mind that the scheme is meant for investors who actually need a monthly income. It may or may not be suitable for an investor in the younger age group," Vishal Dhawan, founder and chief executive officer, Plan Ahead Wealth Advisors, said.

Maheshwari believes that rate of interest and tenure make the new MSSC scheme a good investment option but one should look at asset allocation before investing.

"If one has an investable surplus and can handle volatility, one can also consider mutual funds — including hybrid funds which are tax-efficient and target maturity funds (TMF) — if one is able to hold on to the investment till maturity," she said.

Dhawan suggests considering tax implications before investing in these schemes.



Soon, tax on policies with premiums above ₹5 lakh

No tax exemption will be allowed on income from traditional insurance policies where the premium is over ₹5 lakh, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Wednesday. The new rules will be effective on insurance policies issued on or after April 1, 2023, However, the provision will not be applicable to unit-linked insurance plans (ULIPs). "The removal of the exemption will impact only a small section of the population, especially the high net-worth individuals," Deepesh Raghav, an independent investment advisor, said.

TCS under LRS hiked to 20% in most cases

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced tweaking of the tax collected at source (TCS) on the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). The rate of TCS for remittances above ₹7 lakh for any purpose other than education or medical treatment has been revised upwards, to 20 per cent from the earlier 5 per cent.

"The rate of TCS for foreign remittances for education and for medical treatment is proposed to continue to be 5 per cent for remittances in excess of ₹7 lakh. However, for foreign remittances for other purposes, it is proposed to increase the rates of TCS from 5 per cent to 20 per cent," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

Context: Finance minister announced major changes in the small savings schemes bucket with a doubling of the maximum investment limit under the **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) and the Post Office Monthly Income Plan (POMIS).**

Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)

- **About**: SCSS is one of the safest and most reliable investment options for senior citizens because it is a **government-backed small savings scheme.**
  - SCSS, which pays an **annual interest rate of 8.0%,** is one of the most advantageous investment options, especially when compared to more traditional methods of saving such as Fixed Deposit and Savings Account.
  - A **tax deduction of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh per year** under section 80C of the Income Tax Act is available.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - An individual over the **age of 60.**
  - **Retired Civilian Employees** over the age of 55 but under the age of 60, with the condition that the investment be made within one month of receiving retirement benefits.
  - **Retired Defense Employees** over the age of 50 but under the age of 60, with the condition that the investment be made within one month of receiving retirement benefits.
  - The entire deposit in a **joint account** is only attributable to the first account holder.

Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (POMIS)

- **About**: It is a type of **term deposit account** offered by India Post.
  - This is a type of investment plan that is offered by the **Department of Posts (DoP),** also known as India Post.
- **Key Features**: The MIS scheme **pays interest each month** and is suited for those who seek regular or supplementary income from their investments.

DTE

FEB 2

PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

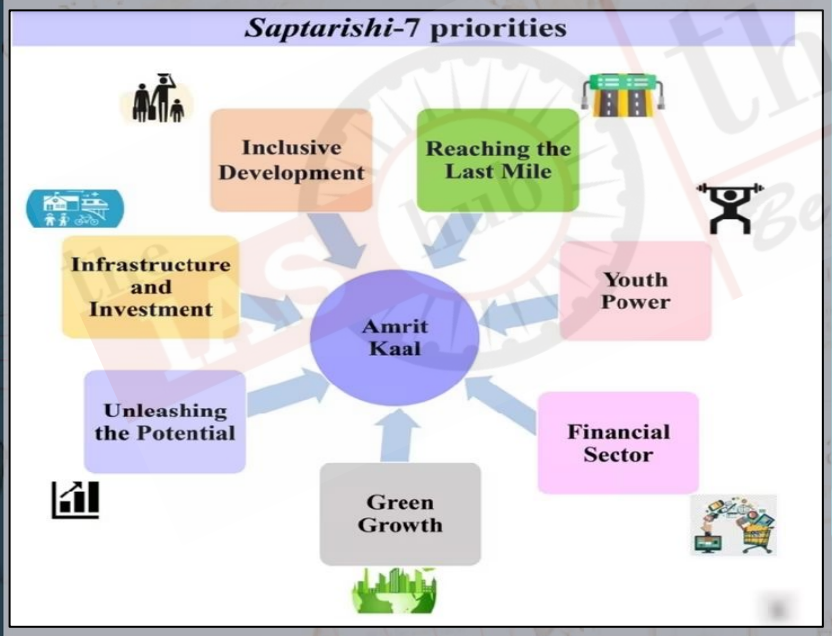


Budget 2023-24: New mission for welfare of PVTGs launched

Rs 15,000 crore allocated to Pradhan Mantri PVTG mission for next three years

By Shuchita Jha

Published: Wednesday 01 February 2023



Context: Union Finance Minister announced a mission for the welfare of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in the 2023-24 Union Budget February 1, 2023.

Key points

- The **Pradhan Mantri PVTG Mission** will be launched as part of 'Reaching The Last Mile', one of the seven Saptarishi priorities enlisted in this year's Budget.
- The **PVTG development mission** will saturate the particularly vulnerable tribal groups with safe housing, clean drinking water, education, nutrition, road and telecom connection and livelihood.
- A Budget of **Rs 15,000 crore** will be dedicated to this mission in the next three years.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- **About**: During the **Fourth Five Year Plan**, a sub-category was created within Scheduled Tribes to identify the most vulnerable groups which were considered to be at the lowest levels of development.
  - PVTGs were formerly known as **primitive tribal groups.**
- **Dhebar Commission**: On the basis of the **Dhebar Commission report,** a criterion for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups was established as:
  - Pre-agricultural level of technology,
  - Low level of literacy,
  - Economic backwardness,
  - A declining or stagnant population.
- **Classification**: The categorization is done by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and not by the Ministry of Tribal affairs.
- **Population**: As per Census 2011, there are a **total of 75 PVTGs** out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 17 states and one Union Territory (UT).
  - There are **12 PVTGs having a population above 50,000.**
  - The remaining groups have a population of 1000 or less.
  - The **PVTG of Sahariya**s has the highest population of 4,50,217.
  - **PVTGs of Sentinelese and Andamanese** have a very small population of 39 and 43, respectively.
  - **Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs** in India while no PVTGs are found in the states of Punjab and Haryana.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Issue Related to Women)

Protection under Domestic Violence Act not available to male member, says Delhi HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The Delhi High Court has stayed proceedings under the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act in a case where a man moved a local court accusing his wife of adultery, taking a prima facie view that protection under the DV Act is not available to the husband.

The High Court, which was hearing a petition filed by the wife challenging the local court's November 5, 2022 order to summon her in the case, also issued a notice to the husband.

Listing the case for hearing on a later date, Justice Jasmeet Singh observed, "In the present case, the respondent i.e. the husband of the petitioner has initiated proceedings under Section 12 of the DV Act. Prima facie it seems in view of Section 2(a), the protection of the Act is not available to a male member of the family and more particularly the husband."

Represented by advocate Ashima Mandla, the wife argued that the local court's order had overturned the essential object and intent of the legislature to safeguard the rights of women in a domestic relationship.

"The very title of the Act is self-explanatory that the protection and recourse ... is limited to a woman being an aggrieved person," Ms. Mandla said. She added that the intent of the Act is resolute that recourse is intentionally and solemnly limited to only woman.

Ms. Mandla said the husband, in his complaint before the local court, makes reference to an April 18, 2017 order of the Karnataka High Court where it "erroneously" held that a male can be an aggrieved party under the DV Act.

She contended that both the husband as well as the local court failed to appreciate that the Karnataka High Court, vide another order passed on April 28, 2017, unconditionally revoked the previous order as "patently erroneous".

Ms. Mandla argued that the local court admitting proceedings against the wife under the DV Act, will be tantamount to "judicial overreach".

The couple had been married for over 14 years and have two children together.

Context: The Delhi High Court has stayed proceedings under the **Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act** in a case where a man moved a local court accusing his wife of adultery, taking a prima facie view that protection under the DV Act is not available to the husband.

Domestic Violence Act, 2005

- **About**: The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was enacted by the Parliament of India to **provide for more effective protection of the rights of women** guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and other related incidents.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Women and Child Development.**
- **Types of Domestic Violence**: Under this Act, domestic violence includes the following:
  - **Physical abuse:** It means any act or conduct which is of such a nature as to **cause bodily pain, harm, or danger to life, limb, or health or impair the health or development of the aggrieved person** and includes assault, criminal intimidation and criminal force.
  - **Sexual abuse**: It includes any conduct of a sexual nature that **abuses, humiliates, degrades** or otherwise violates the dignity of a woman.
  - **Verbal and emotional abuse**: It includes:
    - **Insults, ridicule, humiliation, name-calling and insults or ridicule** especially with regard to not having a child or a male child; and
    - Repeated **threats to cause physical pain** to any person in whom the aggrieved person is interested.
  - **Economic abuse**: It includes activities such as **not providing money for maintaining the woman or her children**, not providing food, clothes, medicines, etc., deprivation of all or any economic or financial resources, forcing the woman out of the house, preventing from accessing or using any part of the house, preventing or obstructing one from carrying on employment, etc.,
- **Complainant**: **Any woman** who alleges to have been subjected to any act of domestic violence by the offender or any person may file a complaint on her behalf. A child is also entitled to relief under the Domestic Violence Act.
- **Domestic Incident Report**: A Domestic Incident Report means **a report made in the prescribed form on receipt of a complaint of domestic violence** from an aggrieved person.

DTE

FEB 2

H5N1 VIRUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

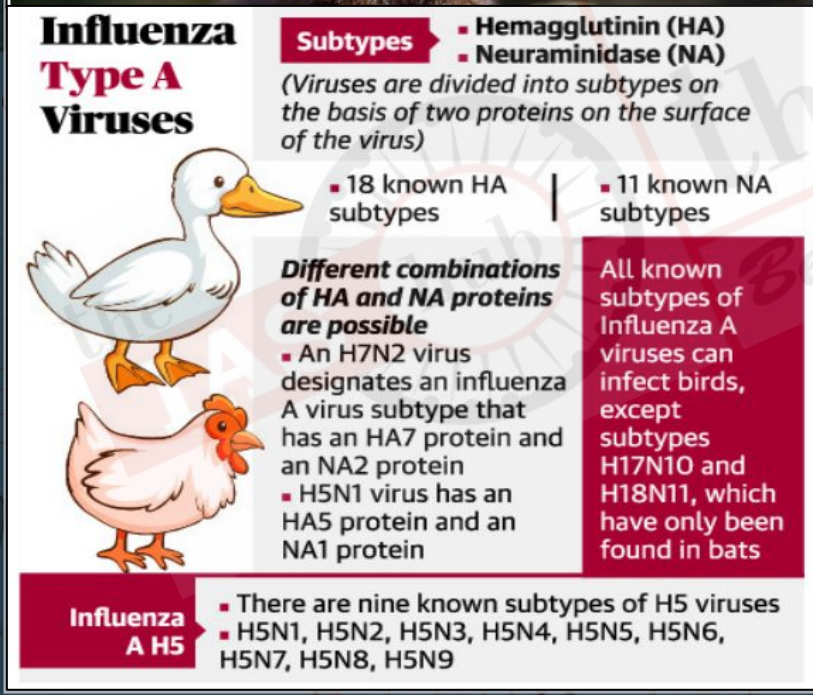
H5 pandemic in the making? Minks may become the bird flu vector for humans

Spain's bird flu outbreak in minks hints at a mutating virus

NEXT NEWS >

By Taran Deol
Published: Monday 30 January 2023





Context: Bird flu, a virus not known to spread easily among mammals, led to the culling of 50,000 minks in Spain last October.

- The Spanish case study indicates the virus **H5N1** is evolving and may be gaining pandemic potential as its mutation is the same mutation that was recorded in the gene of the 2009 pandemic swine-origin influenza A (**H1N1**) virus.

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- **About**: Bird flu, also known as **Avian influenza (AI),** is a highly contagious viral disease affecting several species of food-producing birds (chickens, turkeys, quails, guinea fowl, etc.) as well as pet birds and wild birds.
  - Occasionally mammals, including **humans**, may contract avian influenza.
- **Types of Influenza Viruses:**
  - Influenza viruses are grouped into three types; **A, B, and C.**
  - Only type A is known to infect animals and is **zoonotic**, meaning it can also infect humans.
  - Avian influenza virus subtypes include **A(H5N1), A(H7N9), A(H9N2) and A(H10N3).**
  - **Type B and C** mostly infect humans and typically cause mild disease.
- **Classification**:
  - Influenza viruses are classified into subtypes based on two surface proteins, **Hemagglutinin (HA) and Neuraminidase (NA).**
    - For example, a virus that has an HA 7 protein and NA 9 protein is designated as subtype H7N9.
  - **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1**) virus occurs mainly in birds and is highly contagious among them.
- **Impact**: Avian Influenza outbreaks can lead to devastating consequences for the country, **particularly the poultry industry.**
  - Farmers might experience a **high level of mortality in their flocks**, with rates often around 50%.
- **Prevention**: **Strict biosecurity measures** and good hygiene are essential in protecting against disease outbreaks.
- **Eradication**: If the infection is detected in animals, a **policy of culling infected** and contact animals is normally used in an effort to rapidly contain, control and eradicate the disease.

DST

FEB 2

TREE RING ISOTOPES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Tree ring isotopes records can help define the nature and strength of the upcoming droughts

Context: The strength of the Indian Summer monsoon has declined over high altitude regions in the Kumaon-Garhwal Himalaya (KGH), said a new study of **oxygen isotopes of tree rings** in this region collected over 508 years (1508-2015 CE).

- Such records **can accurately define the nature and strength of the upcoming droughts** through proper modelling and drought assessment and help planning and development in drought prone regions.

Key Points

- **Tree-ring** is one of the proxy records to acquire annual resolution climate data at an annual, decadal to centennial scale.
- Asia has a large network of **tree-ring based proxy records** of past climatic variations and other environmental phenomenon.
- India has also good number of **tree-ring records across the Himalaya and tropical regions of multiple tree-taxa**. Thus various researchers have established dendrochronological potential of Indian trees and various forest types.
- Researchers has large numbers of **tree-ring datasets from India** and acquired several tree-ring isotope records from the Asian subcontinent through different databases.
- These datasets can **provide information regarding regional and large scale hydroclimatic variability.**
- Following standard procedure and protocols, **isotope** data from each tree-ring of core samples were generated and further analysed.
- Based on **regional tree-ring stable oxygen isotope** record and the resultant dataset, Scientists from the institute have traced the longest summer drought variability for **Kumaon-Garhwal Himalaya region.**
- This isotope records covering **Kumaon-Garhwal Himalaya** captured the spatio-temporal distribution of drought and pluvial conditions prevailing in India and the response to the various known feedback mechanisms.
- The mechanisms such as **El Niño southern Oscillation (ENSO)** and regional SST patterns have their exogenous influence on the region through their influence on atmospheric circulation causing the variability in the climate scenario as observed in the present study.
- The **multi-century summer drought** reconstruction highlighted the variation in strength of the Indian summer monsoon.

PIB

FEB 2

PARAMGURU KRISHNAGURU ISHWAR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

PM to participate in the Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace on 3rd February

Context: Prime Minister will participate in the **Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan** for World Peace, being held at Krishnaguru Sevashram at Barpeta, Assam, on 3rd February 2023.

Key Points

- **Paramguru Krishnaguru Ishwar** established the Krishnaguru Sevashram in the year 1974, at village Nasatra, Barpeta Assam.
- He is the **ninth descendant of Mahavaishnab Manohardeva**, who was the follower of the great Vaishnavite saint Shri Shankardeva.
- Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for **World Peace** is a month-long kirtan being held from 6th January at Krishnaguru Sevashram.

Paramguru Krishnaguru Ishwar

- He is the highly Revered **Gurudeva of Krishnaguru Sewashram, Nasatra.**
- He is the **Sadguru** and he is the incarnation of **God Kalki.**
- To protect the virtuous and to destroy the unvirtuous, **Param Brahma Krishnaguru,** the Almighty God has come into being as KRISHNAGURU Paramguru, who bestows the Eknaam (i.e. KRISHNAGURU Eknaam) upon the seekers.
- KRISHNAURU is the only name for devotion of the God by saying, hearing, chanting and meditating the **Eknaam KRISHNAGURU.**
- Paramguru KRISHNAGURU has **taken incarnation to bring up World peace**, to establish truth, to restore human values in the world.
- He is the Gurudeva to impart true knowledge of the Truth, to **lead the humanity by the light of Ultimate knowledge and wisdom.**
- Paramguru KRSHNAGURU Ishwar preaches the **knowledge of God to humanity.**
- Paramguru KRISHNAGURU Ishwar says, – **God is inside every human being.**
- Man being the best of all living beings can only **think of God and should think and devote God** through proper way by initiation through Sadguru.
- As God is in every living being as **Atma or soul,** one may have Him inside him.
- Like fire hidden in the match-box is inflamed only when the match-stick is frictioned with the match-box, likewise K**rishna can be aroused in consciousness by chanting,** meditating the name of Param Brahma KRISHNAGURU who remains as Atma and leads the body, the prakriti as Maya.

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