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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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INDIAN EXPRESS Page 4

HAUZ-I-SHAMSI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - History)

ONCE SPREAD OVER 100 ACRES, WATER BODY NOW A SHADOW OF ITS BRIMMING PAST

An emperor's dream come to life, a 13th-century reservoir hopes to restore lost glory

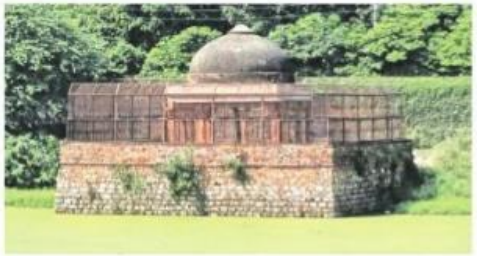
VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

HOME TO a myriad dynasties one after the other, Delhi is a repository of the indelible legacy left by each of them in the form of various architectural marvels. One such legacy is the Hauz-i-Shamsi, a project which was Sultan Iltutmish's "dream come true".

Situated in Mehrauli near the Jahaz Mahal, Hauz-i- Shamsi, also known as the Shamsi Talab, is a water reservoir built between 1211 - 1236 AD.

Once spread over 100 hectares, this water body has shrunk into a patch of filthy water over the years. However, in recent years, some efforts have been made to restore and conserve it with the ASI taking up the task of repairing and maintaining the monuments near the tank. On Friday, the ministry of Jal Shakti organised a 'Jal Itihas Utsav' here to raise public consciousness about safeguarding water heritage sites.

According to a PIB statement, dated November 30, "The restoration work of the Shamsi Talab ... adequately reflects convergence of various Departments of Central and State government."





Hauz-i-Shamsi in earlier days; (L) in 2023. *14 Historic Walks of Delhi/Swapna Liddle*

Elaborating on the Iltutmish connect, author Rana Safvi, in her book *Where Stones Speak: Historical Trails in Mehrauli, the First City of Delhi*, wrote: "According to legend, Sultan Iltutmish wanted to build a tank for his people...One night it was the Prophet Mohammad, who came in his dreams on his horse and instructed him to dig for water and build a water reservoir in the place marked by the hoof of his winged horse, named Buraq. The sultan...went to look for the place and found the mark of the hoof with water flowing from it and built the reservoir around it."

Safvi further wrote: "Sultan Firoz (Shah) Tughlaq got it repaired and it was refilled with water...Even today there is water in it—although extremely dirty—and weeds choke the tank..."

The reservoir also finds mentions in the works of famed traveller Ibn Batuta who had described the Hauz-i-Shamsi as a rectangular-shaped reservoir that was spread across an area of one mile by two miles.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on the current state of the reservoir, writer Sohail Hashmi said, "In the middle of a depression in the Shamsi Talab was a rock...Today, this rock is not in the middle of the lake anymore but stands at the corner. This suggests that more than 50% of the lake had been encroached upon..."

Author Swapna Liddle, in her book *14 Historic Walks of Delhi*, wrote: "The reservoir was an ambitious enterprise, occupying a large area and fed by underground springs as well as streams. The pavilion you see across the tank from the Jahaz Mahal once stood in the middle of the water... The tank had a tendency of silting up and required repeated excavation—first by Alauddin Khalji and then by Firoz Shah Tughlaq."

PIN CODE 110001

Context: A 13th-century reservoir which was once a emperor's dream is about to be restored in Delhi. It is the **Hauz-i-Shamsi,** a project which was **Sultan Iltutmish's** "dream come true".

Hauz-i-Shamsi

- **About:** It is a water storage reservoir or tank.
- **Built by**: Iltutmish of the Slave Dynasty in 1230 CE
- **Also Known as**: Shamshi Talab
- **Features**: Hauz-i-Shamsi originally covered an area of 2 ha (4.9 acres).
  - The domed pavilion (pictured) **constructed by Iltumish to mark the foot print Muhammad's horse located** in the middle of the tank is a double storeyed structure made of red sandstone supported on twelve pillars.
  - The **reservoir also finds mentions in the works of famed traveller Ibn Batuta** who had described the Hauz-i-Shamsi as a rectangular-shaped reservoir that was spread across an area of one mile by two miles.
- **Jal Itihas Utsav**: Ministry of Jal Shakti organised a 'Jal Itihas Utsav' here to raise public consciousness about safeguarding water heritage sites.

Iltutmish

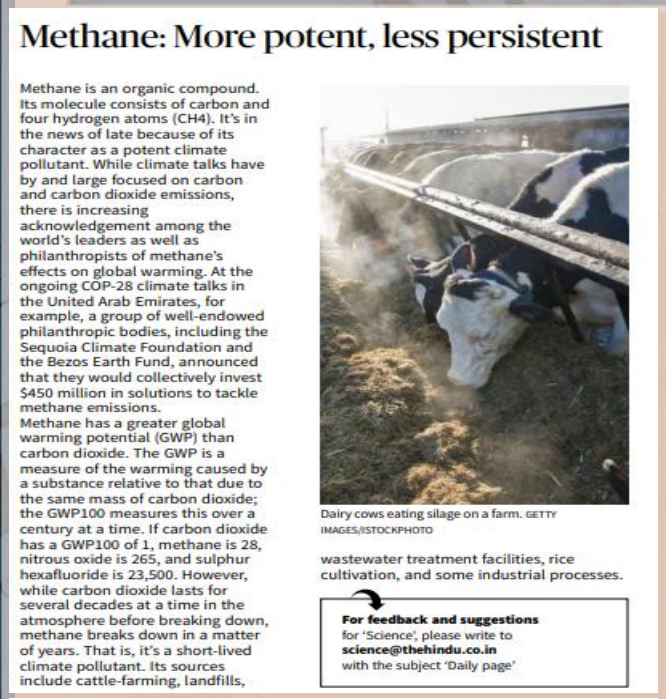
- He was the third of the Mamluk (Slave) kings and first Muslim sovereign to rule from Delhi, and is thus considered the **effective founder of the Delhi Sultanate**.
- **He made** Delhi the capital in place of Lahore.
- **He introduced**: Silver coin (tanka), copper coin (jital), organized Iqta system and introduced reforms in civil administration and army.
- **He set up** official nobility of slaves knwn as **Chahalgani/Chalisa (group of 40).**
- He completed: The construction of Qurub Minar started by Qutubudin Aibak.

THE HINDU

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METHANE EMISSION

Syllabus GS Paper 3 - Env and Eco)



Methane: More potent, less persistent

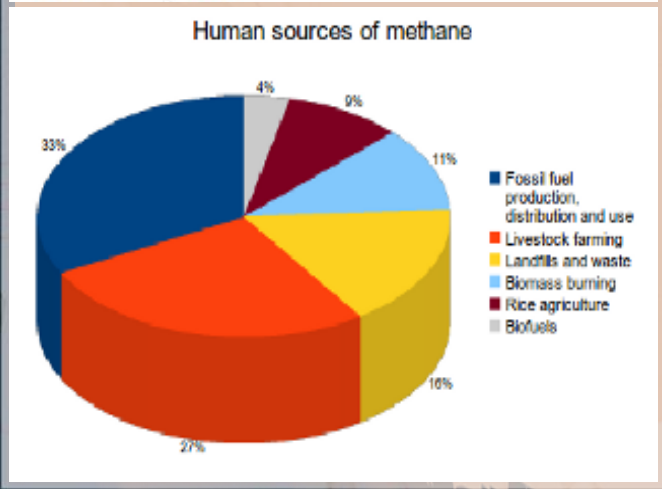
Methane is an organic compound. Its molecule consists of carbon and four hydrogen atoms (CH4). It's in the news of late because of its character as a potent climate pollutant. While climate talks have by and large focused on carbon and carbon dioxide emissions, there is increasing acknowledgement among the world's leaders as well as philanthropists of methane's effects on global warming. At the ongoing COP-28 climate talks in the United Arab Emirates, for example, a group of well-endowed philanthropic bodies, including the Sequoia Climate Foundation and the Bezos Earth Fund, announced that they would collectively invest $450 million in solutions to tackle methane emissions.

Methane has a greater global warming potential (GWP) than carbon dioxide. The GWP is a measure of the warming caused by a substance relative to that due to the same mass of carbon dioxide; the GWP100 measures this over a century at a time. If carbon dioxide has a GWP100 of 1, methane is 28, nitrous oxide is 265, and sulphur hexafluoride is 23,500. However, while carbon dioxide lasts for several decades at a time in the atmosphere before breaking down, methane breaks down in a matter of years. That is, it's a short-lived climate pollutant. Its sources include cattle-farming, landfills,

Dairy cows eating silage on a farm. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

wastewater treatment facilities, rice cultivation, and some industrial processes.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'



Context: Recently, the USA unveiled final rules as part of a global plan to curb emissions contributing to climate change, specifically t**argeting the release of methane in the US oil and gas industry**.

Methane

- **About**: It is a hydrocarbon that is a primary component of natural gas.
  - Methane is **also a greenhouse gas (GHG**), so its presence in the atmosphere affects the earth's temperature and climate system.
- **Properties**: Colourless, odourless and highly flammable gas.
- **Largest emitter: China, the United States, Russia, India, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Mexico** are estimated to be responsible for nearly half of all anthropogenic methane emissions.
- **Properties:** Methane has a **greater global warming potential (GWP) than carbon dioxide**.
- **Methane Emissions:** Methane ranks as the **second most prevalent human-caused greenhouse gas** (GHG) following CO2, contributing to approximately 20% of worldwide emissions.
- **Impacts:** Due to **methane's potent greenhouse gas properties and relatively short atmospheric lifespan** compared to carbon dioxide, substantial reductions could swiftly and significantly impact its potential for atmospheric warming.

PIB

Dec 3

IMO

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation with highest vote tally

Context: Recently, in elections held at its **assembly for the 2024–25 biennium, India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** Council with the highest tally.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

- **About**: is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.
- **Founded**: 17 March 1948
- **Support To**: IMO's work supports the UN SDGs.
- **Headquarters**: London.
- **Members Countries**: 175 Member States and three Associate Members.
- **Structure of IMO**
- **Assembly**: This is the highest Governing Body of the Organization.
- **Council**: It is the Executive Organ of IMO and is responsible, under the Assembly, for supervising the work of the Organization.
- **Functions:**
  - **Establish and uphold a comprehensive regulatory** framework for the shipping industry.
  - **Ensure the safety and security** of vessels.
  - Address environmental **considerations associated with shipping activities**.
  - **Manage legal affairs pertaining** to maritime cases.

IMO Conventions

- **SOLAS (1974):** It is the International Convention ensuring the Safety of Life at Sea.
- **MARPOL (1973):** It is the International Convention addressing the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.
- **STCW:** It stands for the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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E-NAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Agriculture)

Inter-mandi eNAM trade up 188% in Apr-Nov

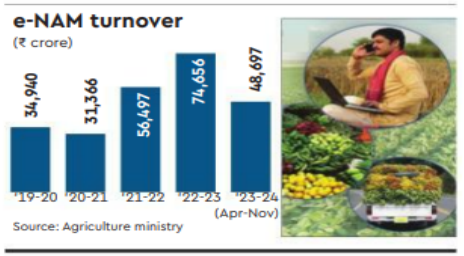
SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, December 3

MORE THAN SEVEN years after the launch of the pan-India digital wholesale agri-marketing platform or electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), purchase from farmgate trade has finally taken off across several states. Farmers are selling commodities on the platform without physically transporting it to the mandis.

Using the farmgate module, farmers in 11 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh, have sold several commodities such as paddy, maize, cotton, raw banana, cauliflower, onion, tomato, brinjal and coconut on the digital platform without transporting the commodities to agricultural produce market committee (APMC) mandis.

"This module reduces farmgate losses and minimises transportation and handling expenses," an agriculture ministry official told *FE*.

"Farmers upload photos of lot sizes of commodities and assaying reports from the farm field through nearest APMC mandis on the e-NAM platform."



Buyers registered with mandis bid for the commodities and lift the commodities from farmgate after making payment to farmers' bank account, the official said.

In the April-November period of the current fiscal, there has been a 188% spike in inter-mandi trade on e-NAM to ₹988 crore.

In terms of inter-state trade, which was not happening a year ago, there has been an increase since the beginning of the year.

The official saidthat while the volume of inter-mandi trade is still a small portion of the total turnover of e-NAM at ₹48,697 crore in April-November (2023-24), it indicates a gradual shift to the digital platform, being used for better price discovery by the farmers.

Since the beginning of the current fiscal, the inter-state trade using e-NAM platform on commodities with farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Telangana selling commodities such as potato, apples, saffron, turmeric, mustard, ragi, silk cocoon, chana, soyabean and jeera, to buyers in Kerala, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, sources said.

Recently, on a request from the power ministry requesting biomass derived from paddy stubble/crop residue to be traded on the pan-India digital platform, the item has been added to the list of trade commodities on e-NAM.

The trial trade of 'raw biomass' (agro-residue) was carried out using e-NAM in the Ambala mandi.

Context: Recently, after more than seven years since the introduction of the pan-India digital wholesale agri-marketing platform, or **electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)**, farmgate trade purchases have finally gained momentum across several states.

Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

- **About:** It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- **Implementing Agency**: Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- **Vision**: To promote uniformity in agriculture marketing by streamlining of procedures across the integrated markets.
- **Mission**: The recent integration of APMCs nationwide via a unified online market platform enables pan-India agricultural trade, enhancing price discovery through transparent auctions based on produce quality, coupled with prompt online payments.

Features

- **Farmers' Product Showcase**: The eNAM portal empowers farmers to exhibit their products in nearby markets, enabling traders from any location to provide price quotations.
- **APMC Services**: e-NAM offers a unified platform for all Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) services, encompassing commodity arrivals, quality and prices, buy and sell offers, and direct e-payment settlements into farmers' accounts.
- **Streamlined Licensing Process**: Utilizing eNAM services, traders, buyers, and commission agents can acquire licenses from state-level authorities without any prerequisites of physical presence or ownership of a shop or premises in the market yard.

PIB

Dec 3

UN PEACEKEEPING MEETING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt to attend UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Accra, Ghana

Context: Raksha Rajya Mantri will pay an official visit to Accra, Ghana to attend the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting.

United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting

- **About:** It is an important opportunity for Member States to come together in a collective effort to strengthen the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and their impact on the communities they serve.
- **Aim**: To address the security and operational challenges being faced by the UN peacekeepers and generate support for these missions deployed across the world.
- **Areas of Focus**: Protection of civilians, strategic communications, safety and security, the mental health of peacekeepers, and women in peacekeeping.

United Nations Peacekeeping

- **Formation:** 1945.
- **Aim:** Helps countries (torn by conflict) to create the conditions for lasting peace.
- **Joint Effort:** Between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security.
- **Financing:** Collective responsibility of UN Member States. USA is the largest contributor followed by China and Japan.
- **UN peacekeepers includes:** Military, police, civilians etc.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Dec 3

GRREP
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

COP28: India not party to green pledge by 118 nations

Context: Recently, a top bureaucrat from the **Union Environment Ministry indicated that India has refused** to **sign the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge** at COP28, citing concerns over language related to coal.

- A total of **116 countries have signed the pledge**, agreeing to triple worldwide installed renewable energy generation capacity.

Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge (GRREP)

- **About:** It commits to tripling worldwide installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 GW and to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements to more than 4 percent by 2030.
- **The pledge recognizes:** The need to increase the pace and scale of deployment of renewables and energy efficiency significantly between now and 2030 for a system free of unabated fossil fuels.
- **Signatories**: 118 nations have pledged to triple green energy. All the G20 countries — barring India, China and Russia — have signed on to the pledge.
- **Global Renewable Energy Target**: 2030
- **Renewable Energy Deployment**: The document emphasizes the need for a substantial increase in the deployment of renewable energy sources.

LIVEMINT

Page 8

WISE PRIZE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

First Indian woman to win WISE prize



She won for mobilizing 1.4 mn out of school girls in villages to get back to education. HT

Safeena Hussain, founder of 'Educate Girls,' has become the first Indian woman to bag the WISE prize worth $5 lakh for mobilizing 1.4 million out of school girls in Indian villages to get back to mainstream education.

The prize, awarded by the Qatar Foundation at the 11th Edition of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Summit earlier this week in Doha, is one of the most prestigious awards in education.

"Sixteen years back, when 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' was unheard of, I had decided to set up Educate Girls, an NGO to bring out of school girls back to mainstream education. Even in the 21st century, there are villages in India where goats are considered assets but girls are considered liability," Safeena told PTI in an interview.

"From poverty to patriarchy, there are endless reasons to keep girls out of school or forcing them to drop out without completing their education," Safeena said. Daughter of noted character actor Yusuf Husain, who recently died, and wife to filmmaker Hansal Mehta, Safeena travels to villages extensively where her "team *Balika*", operating along with field agents, knocks on each door to check if a girl is out of school. PTI

Context: Safeena Hussain, founder of 'Educate Girls,' has become the first Indian woman to bag the WISE Prize.

- **Safeena Hussain** has played a pivotal role in mobilizing **14 lakh out-of-school girls in Indian villages**, empowering them to reintegrate into mainstream education.

World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Prize

- **About**: This Prize for Education recognizes an individual or a team for their outstanding contribution to education, and for their resolve to develop an idea or grow their initiative further.
- **Aim**: At recognizing the accomplishment of an individual or team in education and their potential in shaping the future of education.
- **Founded**: In 2009.
- **Awarded by**: Qatar Foundation.
- **Prize**: US $ 500,000 cash.
- **Nominee:** Candidates can be researchers, education practitioners, policy makers, organization leaders and can belong to any education sector.

GAZA STRIP
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)



Concerns over rising toll as Israel widens Gaza strikes

More than 15,500 people have been killed in the besieged Palestinian territory since October 7

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

GAZA STRIP: Israel struck Gaza targets on Sunday in its war on Hamas sparked by the October 7 attacks, as international concerns deepened over the mounting civilian death toll on the third day of fighting after a truce ended.

More than 15,500 people have been killed in the besieged Palestinian territory, according to the Hamas-run health ministry, in more than eight weeks of combat and heavy bombardment. Israeli air and artillery strikes hit Gaza's northern frontier with Israel, throwing thick clouds of smoke and dust into the sky.

The Israeli army reported 17 rocket salvos from Gaza into Israel on Sunday, adding that most were intercepted and there was only slight material damage.

The UN humanitarian agency OCHA said at least 160 Palestinian deaths were reported in two incidents in northern Gaza on Saturday: the bombing of a six-storey building in Jabalia refugee camp, and of an entire block in Gaza City.

Repeated bursts of heavy automatic weapons fire were heard over an AFPTV livecam.

The war broke out when Hamas militants burst through Gaza's militarised border into Israel on October 7 and killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, while also taking around 240 hostages, according to Israeli authorities.

A seven-day truce, brokered by Qatar with support from Egypt and the United States, led to the release of 80 Israeli hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners before it expired early on Friday. More than two dozen other captives were freed from Gaza under separate arrangements.

Nowhere to go

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip said they were running out of places to go in the sealed-off territory that borders Israel and Egypt. Many of its 2.3 million people are crammed in the south after Israel ordered civilians to leave the north in the early days of the war. The United Nations estimates that 1.8 million Gazans have been displaced.

"Too many innocent Palestinians have been killed," US vice-president Kamala Harris told reporters at UN climate talks in Dubai.

Juliette Toma, director of communications at the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, said nearly 958,000 displaced people were in 99 United Nations facilities in the southern Gaza Strip. UN human rights chief Volker Turk urged an end to the war, saying civilian suffering was "too much to bear".

"We will continue the war until we achieve all its goals, and it's impossible to achieve those goals without the ground operation," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. One goal is to remove Hamas from power in Gaza.

Israeli military vehicles drive near the border with the Gaza Strip on Sunday. AFP

IN ESCALATION, U.S. WARSHIP AND COMMERCIAL SHIPS ATTACKED IN THE RED SEA

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

DUBAI: An American warship and multiple commercial ships came under attack on Sunday in the Red Sea, the Pentagon said, potentially marking a major escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Mideast linked to the Israel-Hamas war.

"We're aware of reports regarding attacks on the USS Carney and commercial vessels in the Red Sea and will provide information as it becomes available," the Pentagon said.

The Carney is an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer.

The British military earlier said there had been a suspected drone attack and explosions in the Red Sea, without elaborating.

The Pentagon did not identify where it believed the fire came from. However, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have been launching a series of attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, as well as launching drones and missiles targeting Israel as it wages war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the attack began about 10am in Sanaa, Yemen, and had been going on for as much as five hours.

There was no immediate comment from the Houthis.

Earlier in November, the Houthis seized a vehicle transport ship also linked to Israel in the Red Sea off Yemen.



Context: Recently, Israel launched airstrikes on Gaza targets in its ongoing conflict with Hamas, which was triggered by the October 7 attacks.

- **International concerns have escalated** as the **civilian death toll continues to rise** on the third day of renewed hostilities following the end of a truce.

Gaza Strip

- **About**: It is also known as Gaza, is a Palestinian enclave situated on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Boundaries**: It shares an 11-kilometer (6.8-mile) border with Egypt to the southwest and a 51-kilometer (32-mile) border with Israel to the east and north.
    - Both the **Gaza Strip and the West Bank** are territories **claimed by the de jure sovereign State of Palestine**.
    - Israeli territory separates the **territories of Gaza and the West Bank from each other**.
    - Initially under the **jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, the Gaza Strip** has been **governed by Hamas, a militant Palestinian** fundamentalist Islamic organization, since the Battle of Gaza in June 2007, following their victory in the 2006 elections.

Israel

- **About**: Israel is located at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea in West Asia.
- **Boundaries**: North by Lebanon, the northeast by Syria, the east by Jordan and the West Bank, and to the southwest by Egypt.

MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

MPC likely to hold repo rate for fifth time in a row

PREDICTIONS

Respondent	Do you expect the RBI to keep repo rate unchanged?	Do you expect a change in stance to neutral?	Do you expect the RBI to revise FY24 inflation forecast? If so, by how much?	Do you expect RBI to revise FY24 growth forecast? If so, by how much?
SBI	✓	✗	✗	✓ (30 bps up)
Bank of Baroda	✓	✗	✗	✓ (up by not more than 10–20 bps)
IDFC First Bank	✓	✗	✗	✓ (up by 20 bps)
Crisil	✓	✗	✗	✓
Kotak Mahindra Bank	✓	✗	✗	✓ (up by 20–30 bps)
YES Bank	✓	✗	✗	✗
Punjab National Bank	✓	✗	✓ (down by 20 bps)	✓ (up by 20 bps)
HDFC Bank	✓	✗	✗	✓ (up by 20–30 bps)
PNB Gilts	✓	✓	✗	✓
IDBI	✓	✗	✗	✗

ANJALI KUMARI
Mumbai, 3 December

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to keep the policy repo rate unchanged for the fifth consecutive policy review, all the 10 respondents said in a *Business Standard* poll.

The central bank will announce the review of the policy on December 8.

After increasing the repo rate by 250 basis points (bps) to 6.5 per cent between May 2022 and February 2023, the MPC hit the pause in the April review of monetary policy.

"Right now inflation is still above target levels and growth is holding up. So the focus remains on ensuring that inflation goes towards the 4 per cent target. The monetary policy is inclined to keep liquidity conditions tight, which they have achieved," IDFC First Bank Economist Gaura Sengupta said.

Banking system liquidity tightened further in November. The Reserve Bank of India infused ₹48,754 crore on Thursday.

Deficit liquidity widened to nearly a five-year high on November 21 on the back of monthly goods and services tax payments. The central bank had infused ₹1.74 trillion on that day.

All the respondents to the poll except PNB Gilts expect the committee members to maintain the withdrawal of the "accommodation" stance because the upside risk to inflation remains.

"The RBI will continue with its stance because there are still inflationary risks, which continue to linger. And growth remains strong. So, they (RBI) have the headroom to keep monetary policy tight as of now," said Sakshi Gupta, principal economist, HDFC Bank.

India's consumer price index (CPI) inflation rate fell to 4.87 per cent in October, marking the lowest figure since June, compared to the 5.02 per cent reported in September. Despite this overall decline, the food price index exhibited a sequential increase in October, breaking a two-month downward trend. Notably, within the food category, the vegetable price index rose 3.4 per cent month-on-month, primarily driven by a 15.5 per cent sequential surge in onion prices. Vikas Goel, managing director and chief executive officer at PNB Gilts, said there was now a chance of a shift in stance, considering the actions taken by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) thus far.



All respondents to the poll, except PNB Gilts, expect the committee members to maintain the withdrawal of the 'accommodative' stance because the upside risk to inflation remains

Even though Fed Chair Jerome Powell left the door open for further hikes in rates, the markets say the US rate-setting panel might be done with hiking. A majority of the respondents said the RBI was likely to revise its growth projection for this financial year (FY24) slightly upwards. This expectation has been fuelled by the second-quarter growth rate surpassing the central bank's initial projection of 6.5 per cent, reaching 7.6 per cent. The RBI projects a GDP growth of 6.5 per cent for FY24.

"The growth projection can be revised slightly upwards because in the last quarter growth was far more than the RBI forecast," said Goel. Except Punjab National Bank, no respondent expects the central bank to revise its inflation forecasts for this financial year from 5.4 per cent.

"Last month's inflation was lower due to the base effect. Once that base effect wears off, inflation is likely to go back to 5.4-5.5 per cent this month. All taken together, it is difficult for the RBI to do anything and show any reaction," said Indranil Pan, chief economist, YES Bank.

According to the RBI's "State of the Economy" report, food inflation poses the sole threat to the central bank's commitment to align headline inflation with the 4 per cent target. The report said the central bank was preparing for an anticipated upsick in the inflation readings for November and December.

Context: The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to keep the **policy repo rate** unchanged for the fifth consecutive policy review.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- **About**: It was established based on the **recommendation of the Urjit Patel** Committee.
- **Set up**: Under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act of 1934 by the Union government.
- **Composition:** It is a 6 member committee. There are in total three internal members and three external experts. The RBI **Governor and Deputy Governor are also members** of the MPC Committee.
- **Objectives:** To improve the repo rate, reverse repo rate, liquidity, etc.
- **Instruments of Committee**: Repo rate, Reverse Repo rate, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), Bank Rate, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), Open Market Operations (OMOs)

Repo rate: The Repo Rate is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) loans money to commercial banks.

Reverse repo rate: Reverse repo is the inverse contract to the repo rate. The reverse repo rate is the rate at which the RBI borrows funds from the country's commercial banks.

LIVEMINT

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COP 28 ON TROPICAL DISEASE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Health)

COP28 gets $777 mn to fight tropical diseases

The burden of tropical diseases is expected to worsen as the world warms

Reuters
feedback@livemint.com
DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates and several charities at the UN climate summit on Sunday offered $777 million in financing for eradicating neglected tropical diseases that are expected to worsen as temperatures climb.

Climate-related factors "have become one of the greatest threats to human health in the 21st century", COP28 president Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber said in a statement.

The pledges, made as the COP28 summit on Sunday focused on climate-related health risks, included $100 million from the UAE and another $100 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Others to announce funds for climate-related health issues included Belgium, Germany and the US Agency for International Development.

The World Bank launched a programme to explore possible support measures for public health in developing countries, where climate-related health risks are especially high.

The burden of tropical diseases will worsen as the world warms, along with other climate-driven health threats including malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

Many tropical diseases are already easy to treat. River blindness and sleeping sickness, for example, are both endemic to Africa and spread through parasitic worms and flies that are likely to proliferate in a warming world. More than 120 countries have signed a COP28 declaration acknowledging their responsibility to keep people safe amid global warming.

The declaration made no mention of fossil fuels, the main source of climate-warming emissions, which the Global Climate and Health Alliance called a "glaring omission". Activists including physicians in white coats held a small demonstration on Sunday within the COP28 compound to raise awareness of the issue. "We are in a lot of trouble," said Joseph Vipond, an emergency physician from Alberta, Canada. He recalled the case of a child dying from an asthma attack made worse by smoke inhalation from Western Canada's record wildfires this year. "This is having real world impacts."



The declaration did not mention fossil fuels, the source of climate-warming emissions. AFP

Climate change is also increasing the frequency of dangerous storms and more erratic rainfall. In September Storm Daniel killed more than 11,000 people in Libya, and last year's massive flooding in Pakistan fuelled a 400% increase in malaria cases across the country, according to the World Health Organization.

WB launched a programme to explore support measures for public health in developing countries

Earlier on Sunday, Microsoft co-founder turned philanthropist Bill Gates said scientists were working on new treatments for and prevention of mosquito-spread malaria as the rise in temperatures creates more hospitable habitat for the insects to breed.

"We have new tools at the lab level that decimate mosquito populations," said Gates, whose foundation supports public health research and projects for the developing world.

"These new innovations give us a chance, at a reasonable cost, to make progress."

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton also spoke on Sunday, urging reform to the world's insurance system as another key requirement to keep people safe.

"Right now insurance companies are pulling out of so many places, they're not insuring homes, they're not insuring businesses," Clinton said, addressing a panel on women and climate resiliency.

"It's people everywhere who are going to be left out with no backup, no insurance for their business or their home."

Context: Recently, at the **U.N. climate summit,** The United Arab Emirates and **several charities pledged $777 million in financing to combat neglected tropical diseases**, which are anticipated to escalate with rising temperatures.

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

- **About:** NTDs are a diverse group of tropical infections that are common in low-income populations in developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- **Caused by**: Pathogens, such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and parasitic worms.
- **13 neglected Tropical Diseases**: ascariasis, Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dracunculiasis, hookworm infection, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, and trichuriasis.
- **Dominant Regions**: They are common in low-income populations in developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- **India**: India has the world's largest absolute burden of at least 10 major NTDs, including hookworm, dengue, lymphatic filariasis, leprosy, visceral leishmaniasis or kala-azar and rabies.
- Last year, **Togo became the first African country** to **eliminate four neglected tropical diseases**.

Government Initiatives

- **Preventive Methods**: It involve the periodic deployment of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) rounds in endemic areas, providing free-of-cost medicines to at-risk communities.
- **Vector-Control Measures:** Include the undertaking of Indoor Residual Spraying rounds in endemic areas to prevent sandfly breeding.
- **National Center for Vector-Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC)**: It strives for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases, namely Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue, Chikungunya, Kala-azar, and Lymphatic Filariasis.

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