theIAShub

the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

FEBRUARY
1

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place

THE HINDU
ET
BS
TOI
The Indian EXPRESS
livemint
pib
DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
Science Reporter
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. LRS
2. Follow-On Public Offer
3. Digital Public Infrastructure
4. Indian Cattle Breeds
5. Visit India Year 2023 Initiative
6. Andhra Pradesh Capital
7. Passive Euthanasia
8. Out-of-Pocket Expenditure
9. India's Climate Action
10. Kelp Forests

LIBERALISED REMITTANCE SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

RBI Relaxes Restrictions on SBM India Until Mar 15

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Tuesday relaxed the restrictions on SBM Bank (India) and allowed ATM/POS transactions under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) till March 15.

The banking regulator, on January 23, asked SBM Bank (India) to stop with immediate effect all transactions under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) till further orders.

"The bank has since initiated corrective actions and made submission for relaxation of the restrictions," the RBI said.

Based on the submission and also to provide relief to the affected customers of the bank, it has been decided to partially relax the restrictions by allowing ATM/POS transactions under LRS through KYC-compliant internationally active debit cards issued by the bank, it said.

"The relaxation is up to March 15, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the RBI added.

An SBM Bank (India) spokesperson in a statement said the RBI has permitted the bank's customers (KYC-compliant accounts) to use their debit cards for physical purchase at merchant outlet and ATM cash withdrawal overseas till March 15, 2023.

Context: The Reserve Bank relaxed the restrictions on SBM Bank (India) and allowed ATM/POS transactions under **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** till March 15.

Liberalised Remittance Scheme

- **About**: LRS is **facility provided by RBI** for all resident individuals including minors to freely remit up to certain amount in terms of US Dollar for current and capital account purposes or combination of both.
- **Origin**: The scheme was introduced in February 2004 and its regulations are provided under **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.**
- **LRS Limit**: After it was launched, the **LRS limit was US $25,000,** but it has been revised in stages consistent with prevailing macro and micro economic conditions.
    - At present, LRS limit for all resident individuals, including minors, is **US $2,50,000** (Rs. 1.5 crore) per financial year.
- **Benefits**: Under LRS, individuals can make **remittances for overseas education**, travel, medical treatment, maintenance to relatives living abroad, gifting and donations.
    - The remitted money can be **used for purchase of shares and property as well.**
    - Individuals can also **open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts** with overseas banks for carrying out transactions under it.

Remittances

- **About**: Remittances are usually understood as **financial or in-kind transfers** made by migrants to friends and relatives back in their communities of origin.
- **Two main components: Personal Transfers** in cash or in kind between resident and non-resident households and Compensation of Employees, which refers to the income of workers who work in another country for a limited period of time.
- **Significance**: Remittances help in **stimulating economic development** in recipient countries, but this can also make such countries over-reliant on them.

THE HINDU

Page 1

FOLLOW-ON PUBLIC OFFER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Adani's FPO fully subscribed as HNIs offset retail wariness

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The ₹20,000-crore follow-on public offer from Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) was fully subscribed on the last day of the record share sale on Tuesday, after high net worth individuals (HNIs) and institutional investors bid strongly and more than made up for a poor to tepid response from retail investors and employees.

The successful conclusion of the Adani Group flagship company's FPO will come as a major relief to its promoters led by India's richest individual Gautam Adani in the wake of a U.S.-based short-seller's allegations of accounting irregularities and stock manipulation at the group, which led to a rout in the conglomerate's shares.



Mutual funds completely avoided the share sale. AFP

The FPO finally received bids for 1.12 times the 4.55 crore shares on offer, according to the BSE data.

While qualified institutional bidders (QIBs) led by FIIs sought 1.26 times the shares offered to them as a category, non-institutional investors (NIIs) bid for 3.32 times the stock reserved for them as a class. NIIs who placed bids exceeding ₹10 lakh including HNIs, sought to buy 4.97 times the shares offered to them.

Retail individual investors bid for just a little more than one-tenth (0.12) the number of shares offered to them and employees bid for 55% of the shares reserved for them.

AEL shares rose 3.35% on the BSE on Tuesday to close at ₹2,975 apiece.

Context: The ₹20,000 crore **follow-on public offer** from Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) was fully subscribed on the last day of the record share sale, after high net worth individuals and institutional investors bid strongly and more than made up for a poor to tepid response from retail investors and employees.

Follow on Public Offering (FPO)

- **About**: FPO is the way by which a company that is already listed on a stock exchange can **raise funds from the public**. It must be sounding similar to an IPO, which is Initial Public Offering, however, they are different.
  - When a company raises funds from the public for the first time and then gets listed it's called an **IPO**.
  - Whereas when a company that is already listed on the exchange raises funds from the public it's called **FPO**. Chronologically, **FPO comes after an IPO.**
- **Types of FPO:**
  - **Diluted FPO**: As the name suggests, there is **dilution in the ownership of existing shareholders.**
    - Here, the company decides to issue new shares to the public which increases the total number of shares outstanding.
    - When there is an increase in the number of shares, the ownership percentage of existing shares decreases since newly issued shares will also represent a certain proportion of ownership in the company.
  - **Non-Diluted FPO**: Here there is **no dilution in ownership** of existing shareholders because no new shares are issued.
    - The shares which are offered to the public are shares that are held by non-public shareholders.
    - Usually, these shareholders are Promoters, Directors of the company, or Pre-IPO investors.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 9

DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Digital public infra to contribute 30-50 bps to growth

SOURABH LELE
New Delhi, 31 January

The public digital infrastructure built over the past six-seven years has enhanced economic efficiency and will contribute about 30-50 basis points (bps) to the potential medium-term growth of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the Economic Survey 2022-23.

The Survey states that the growth effects of the maturation of India's public digital infrastructure have not been sufficiently understood. The reforms undertaken in recent years are expected to be among the most important drivers of growth in the medium term, it said.

The Survey said the dematerialisation of documents would trigger the next wave of digitalisation. This is expected to happen with the growth of Digital Document Execution (DDE) – the platform for paperless execution and storage of financial contracts. Developed by the National e-Governance Services (NeSL), the platform allows for identity verification for contracts and digital execution using an e-signature.

The government expects the platform to significantly boost the ease of doing business with secure, paperless, and hassle-free contracts.

The Survey highlighted the focus on utilising public digital infrastructure like Aadhaar, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, and MyGov.

"Transforming welfare through technology, Aadhaar and JAM trinity have revolutionised the universe of state-citizen interaction, enabling targeted delivery of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) through 318 central schemes and over 720 state DBT schemes, seamless portability of ration card across States through 'One Nation One Ration Card' and national database of unorganised workers 'eShram portal'," said the Survey.

Nearly all adults have been enrolled in Aadhaar. The UPI's share in total digital transactions has grown to 52 per cent in FY22 from 17 per cent in FY19. The number of banks that joined the real-time payment system increased from 35 in December 2017 to over 380 in December 2022.

The government sees the financial cycle turning after a long period of recovery from the pandemic-related shocks. This will be boosted further by the efficiency brought in by digitalisation, as it enables greater formalisation, higher financial inclusion, and more economic opportunities, the Survey said.

"Today, we have a powerful story on digital public infrastructure that is finding global resonance. The increasing digital adoption during Covid-19 in areas like healthcare, agriculture, fintech, education, and skilling indicates that the digital delivery of services in India has a massive potential across economic sectors," the Survey said.

It added that various initiatives had seen wide user participation. The Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) – the platform to access central and state government schemes – had 49 million registered users as of January 16. In the case of digital financial services, the Survey highlighted that India outperformed with a fintech adoption rate of 87 per cent, substantially higher than the world average of 64 per cent, according to the latest Global FinTech Adoption Index.



INDIA'S RESILIENT IT-BPM INDUSTRY

- **IT-BPM revenues** registered YoY growth of 15.5 per cent in FY22 compared to 2.1 per cent in FY21
- **The industry recorded nearly 10 per cent estimated growth** in direct employee pool in FY22
- **The year saw the highest net addition** to IT-BPM employee base
- **Patent filing has increased drastically,** with over 138,000 patents filed between 2015-21
- **Over 85,000 patents** filed in emerging technologies

Context: The **public digital infrastructure** built over the past sixseven years has enhanced economic efficiency and will contribute about 3050 basis points (bps) to the potential medium term growth of the country´s gross domestic product (GDP), according to the Economic Survey 2022-23.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

- **About**: DPI refers to solutions and systems that **enable the effective provision of essential society-wide functions** and services in the public and private sectors.
  - This includes **digital forms of ID and verification**, civil registration, payment (digital transactions and money transfers), data exchange, and information systems.
- **Open source, customisable, and localisable:** Vendor lock-in means being locked into long-term contracts with limited flexibility and large, sometimes unexpected, fees; lack of customisation to local context; inability to integrate citizens into governance and decision-making; and centralising the market around only a few companies.
- **Benefits**: **Increase resilience, avoid vendor lock-in, leverage existing solutions and adapt them to local needs,** support interoperability between different platforms and solutions and have ability to respond swiftly and effectively to global crises.
  - It allows countries to retain strategic control over their digitalisation processes, ensure digital cooperation and strengthen long-term capacity.

Digital Public Goods (DPGs)

- **About**: DPGs are **open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards,** and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable laws and best practices, do no harm by design, and help attain the SDGs.
- **Benefits**: DPGs are **needed to accelerate the DPI agenda**. DPI may include implementations of multiple proprietary and/or open-source solutions, including digital public goods (DPGs).
- **Digital Public Goods Alliance:** In 2022, **UN Development Programme and the Digital Public Goods Alliance**, countries from around the world committed to sharing DPGs and best practices for the implementation of DPI. Funders also committed US$295 million to advance inclusive digital public infrastructure with DPGs.

LIVE MINT

Page 10

INDIAN CATTLE BREEDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture & Livestocks)

IISER unravels genetic makeup of 4 native Indian cow breeds

Scientists at the Bhopal chapter of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) have unravelled for the first time the genetic makeup of native Indian cow breeds such as Kasargod Dwarf, Kasargod Kapila, Vechur, and Ongole, IISER said on Tuesday.

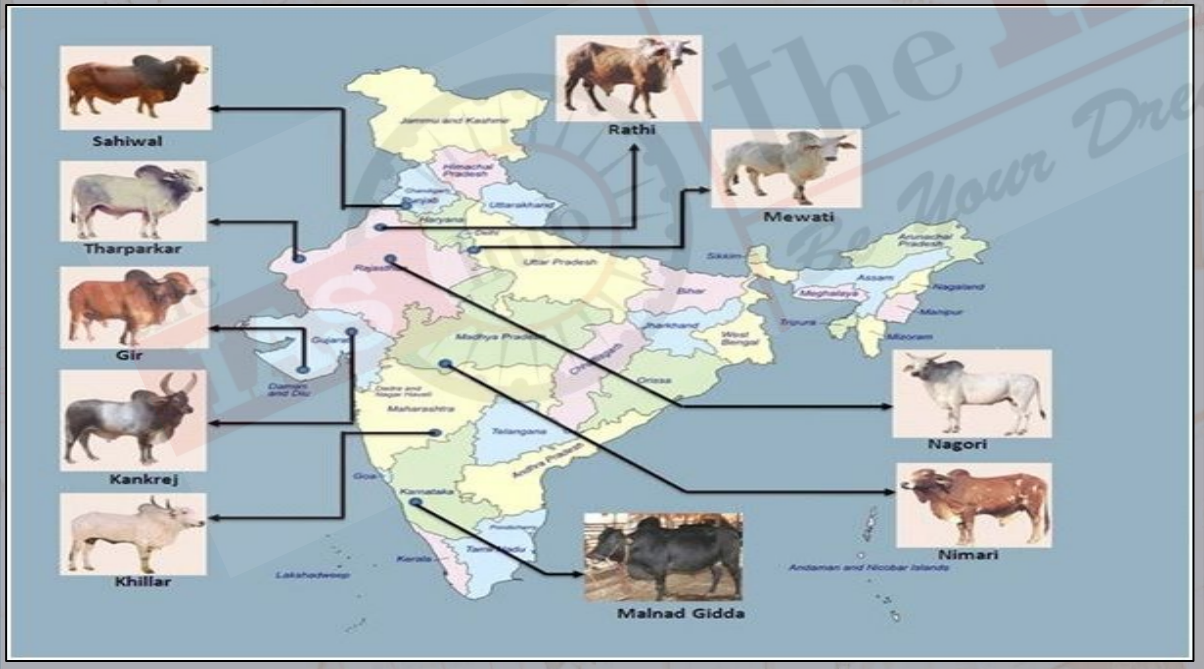
The genome sequencing study on the four breeds will throw more light on traits like their ability to handle heat in India and will lead to increased productivity and sustainability in the Indian cattle industry, the premier institute said in a release.

The genome is like a blueprint or a set of instructions required by an organism, like a plant or animal, to live and survive. It's made up of tiny units called genes, which contain the information needed for the organism to grow, develop, and function properly.

By understanding the genome, scientists can learn important information about the organism, like how it might be related to certain diseases or traits, said the release. **PTI**



The four breeds are - Kasargod Dwarf, Kasargod Kapila, Vechur, and Ongole. MINT



Context: Scientists at the Bhopal chapter of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research have unravelled for the first time the genetic makeup of native Indian cow breeds **Kasargod Dwarf, Kasargod Kapila, Vechur, and Ongole.**

- The genome sequencing study on the four breeds will throw more light on traits like their ability to handle heat in India and will lead to increased productivity and sustainability in the Indian cattle industry.

Indigenous cattle breeds of India

- **About**: Of the more than 800 cattle breeds recognized worldwide, India had 27 acknowledged indigenous breeds of cattle and 7 breeds of buffaloes.
- **Indian cattle breeds of cattle are classified into three types as under:**
  - **Milch breeds**: The cows of these breeds are high milk yielders and the male animals are slow or poor workers. The milk production of milk breeds is on the average more than 1600 kg. per lactation. The examples of Indian milch breeds are **Sahiwal, Red Sindhi, Gir and Deoni.**
  - **Dual Purpose breeds**: The cows in these breeds are average milk yielder and male animals are very useful for work. Their milk production per lactation is 500 kg to 150 kg. The example of this group are **Ongole, Hariana, Kankrej, Deoni, Rathi , Mewathi, Dangi and Nimari.**
  - **Draught breeds:** The male animals are good for work and cows are poor milk yielders and their milk yield on an average is less than 500 kg per lactation. They are usually white in colour. The example of this group is **Hallikar, Amritmahal, Khillari, Bargur, Nagori, Bachaur, Malvi, Kenkatha, Kherigarh, Kangayam, Ponwar, Siri, Gaolao, Krishna Valley.**

PIB

FEB 1

VISIT INDIA YEAR 2023 INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Shri G Kishan Reddy launches the Visit India Year 2023 logo in New Delhi

Context: Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) launched the **Visit India Year 2023 initiative** and unveiled its logo at New Delhi, kicking off the year of grand plans and activities for promoting tourism in India.

- Encouraging the inbound travel and particularly in the backdrop of **India's G20 Presidency** as well as grand celebrations of India@75 **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the Ministry of Tourism is celebrating this year as 'Visit India Year 2023'.

Key Points

- The logo design is inspired by belief system of **Atithi Devo Bhava, the 'Visit India Year 2023' logo** is a thoughtfully-designed visual identity that is shaped like a grand namaste.
- Namaste holds **cultural significance** in India as it is not just a quintessential way to greet people but also a noble gesture to welcome them.
- The **Namaste** is in fact a colourful medley of the **vibrant experiences,** illustrious heritage, rich culture, sumptuous delicacies, enchanting wildlife, intricate art forms and a lot more that India stands for.
- Every icon shown in the **logo represents India**, in its own unique way.
- The 'Visit India Year 2023' logo is an open invitation to the world to come and experience the **Incredible India.**

Visit India Year 2023

- Visit India Year 2023 is a new government initiative which aims to **promote various tourism products and destinations** to increase India's share in the global tourism market.
- Data show that **domestic tourism has recovered to pre-pandemic levels,** even exceeding it in some cases.
- This is evident in a record 1.84 crore domestic tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir in 2022.
- Similarly, foreign tourist arrivals are expected to reach pre-pandemic levels.
- India is a tourist destination to rekindle one's inner self. As the birthplace to four major world religions, i.e., **Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism,** India can truly claim to be the world's spiritual beacon. This is at the core of the Visit India Year 2023.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 16

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Amaravati case in SC, Jagan says Vizag to be Andhra capital

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 31

EVEN AS the matter of developing Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh is pending in the Supreme Court, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday reiterated that Visakhapatnam would soon become the state capital.

Addressing investors in New Delhi at a preparatory meeting for the Global Investors Summit to be held in Visakhapatnam in March, the CM said he would also be shifting his office to the port city.

"I am here to invite you to Visakhapatnam, which is going to be our capital in the days to come. I myself will be shifting there in the months to come. I am inviting you to the Global Investors Summit that we are organising at Visakhapatnam on March 3-4," he said.

While the previous TDP government led by then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had acquired over 33,000 acres of land from farmers to develop Amaravati as the state capital in 2015, Reddy, after coming to power in 2019, proposed the establishment of three state capitals as part of "decentralised development". He said Amaravati would be the legislative capital, Visakhapatnam the executive-capital, and Kurnool the judicial capital.



Will shift to Visakhapatnam soon: CM Reddy. *Express*

In January 2020, Reddy's government passed a Bill in the Assembly scrapping the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) Act, 2014, passed by the then TDP government to develop Amaravati as the capital city.

It also passed the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill in 2020. But this Bill was repealed in November 2021, after farmers who had given up their land for developing Amaravati filed petitions in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, under the banner of the Rajdhani Rythu Parirakshana Samithi.

Without giving any timeframe, Reddy, speaking on the floor of the Assembly, had said the government would come out with a "comprehensive, complete and better" Bill after plugging loopholes in the previous version.

On March 3 last year, the Andhra Pradesh High Court, while hearing the farmers' petitions, directed the state government to develop Amaravati as envisaged under the APCRDA Act of the previous TDP government, and set a deadline of six months.

The HC said the government should also develop the plots allocated to farmers in lieu of the agricultural land that they gave up, and hand it back in three months. Besides infrastructure facilities around the developed plots, the HC said other plans too, such as the development of nine theme cities -- knowledge city, health city, electronics city, tourism city, justice city, media city, sports city, finance city, and government city of Amaravati – as envisaged under the APCRDA Act should be carried out.

The Reddy government, however, challenged the HC's order in the Supreme Court in September last year. On November 28 last year, the SC stayed the HC's directions till January 31, 2023, and sought responses from the Centre, Andhra Pradesh government, and Rajdhani Rythu Parirakshanan Samithi. While the matter was listed on Tuesday, the SC did not hear the case.

Context: As the matter of developing **Amaravati** as the capital of Andhra Pradesh lies pending in the Supreme Court, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister reiterated that Visakhapatnam would become the capital of the state soon.

Background: Andhra Pradesh Capital

- In 2014, the **Amaravati region was chosen as the site of the capital of Andhra Pradesh**, the residuary State left after the creation of Telangana, but work was stopped after the present government regime took over.
- Amaravati region was decided as capital by then TDP government after bifurcation of the state.
- In 2019 elections, YSRCP government came to power and announced to set up **three capitals in the name of decentralisation of governance.**
- But farmers of Amaravati were upset with the decision and are opposing this decision since then.
- However, YSRCP government **withdrawn the three capital bills** in November 2021, citing technical flaws.
- On February 2, 2022, a debate was held in Rajya Sabha, on the issue of capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- On a question by an MP, Union Home Minister made it clear that **decision on capital belongs to state** and opined that, capital is Amaravati.
- State government had notified **AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020** as well as AP Capital Region Development Authority (Repeal) Act, 2020, on July 31, 2020. This law made way for three capitals for the state, namely
    - Amaravati, as legislative capital.
    - Visakhapatnam, as executive capital and
    - Kurnool, as judicial capital.

THE HINDU Page 11

OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

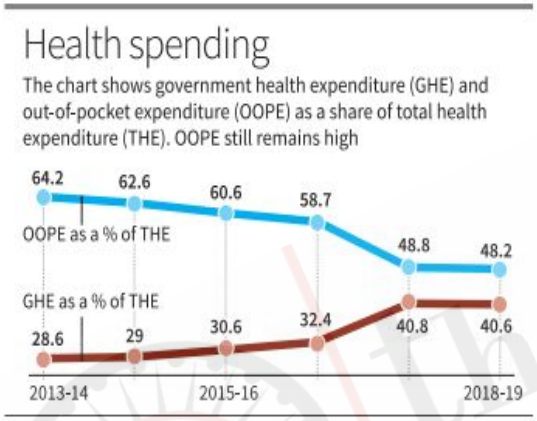
'Out-of-pocket health spending still high, despite govt. chipping in'

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Almost half of all health spending in India is still paid by patients themselves directly at the point of treatment, though out-of-pocket expenditure has dropped as the government's share of spending on health went up significantly after 2013-14, the Economic Survey 2022-23 says.

The share of government in the total health expenditure was just 28.6% in the financial year 2013-14, but rose to 40.6% by 2018-19, the latest year for which data are available. There was a concomitant decline in out-of-pocket expenditure from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 48.2% in 2018-19.

Out-of-pocket expenditure is the money paid by households at the point of receiving health care. This occurs when services are neither provided free of cost through a government health facility, nor is the individual covered under any public or private insurance or social protection scheme.



Govt. hikes spending

For 2018-19, India's total health expenditure was estimated at ₹5,96,440 crore, which is 3.2% of the GDP and ₹4,470 per capita. This includes current and capital expenditures incurred by the government and private sources, including external funds. Government health expenditure for that year amounted to 40.6% of the total, while out-of-pocket expenditure remained marginally higher at 48.2%. In States such as Uttar Pradesh, the out-of-pocket estimates were as high as 71.3%.

It has been recommended several times that government's health expenditure be raised from the existing 1.2% to 2.5% of the GDP by 2025. The Survey states that Central and State governments' budgeted expenditure on the health sector reached 2.1% of the GDP in the Budget estimates for 2022-23 and 2.2% in the revised estimates for 2021-22, an increase from 1.6% in 2020-21.

Falling short

Under the Health Ministry's largest cashless health insurance scheme – the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana – approximately 21.9 crore beneficiaries have been verified, including 3 crore beneficiaries verified using State IT systems. This is less than 50% of the targeted approximately 50 crore beneficiaries under the scheme. "As of January 4, approximately 4.3 crore hospital admissions, amounting to ₹50,409 crore, have also been authorised under the scheme through a network of over 26,055 hospitals," the Survey added.

Context: Almost half of **all health spending in India** is still paid by patients themselves directly at the point of treatment, although this has dropped as the government's share of spending on health went up significantly after 2013-14, according to the Economic Survey 2022-23.

Out-of-pocket expenditure

- **About**: Out-of-pocket expenditure is the **money paid directly by households**, at the point of receiving health care.
  - This occurs when services are neither provided free of cost through a government health facility, nor is the individual covered under any public or private insurance or social protection scheme.

Govts hike health spending

- The share of government health expenditure in total health expenditure was just 28.6% in the financial year 2013-14, but **rose to 40.6% by 2018-19**, the latest year for which data is available.
- There was a **concomitant decline in out-of-pocket expenditure** as a percentage of total health expenditure from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 48.2% in 2018-19.
- For 2018-19, India's total health expenditure was estimated to be ₹5,96,440 crore, which is **3.2% of GDP and amounts to ₹4,470 per capita.**
- This includes **current and capital expenditures** incurred by the government and private sources, including external funds.
- Government health expenditure for that year amounted to 40.6% of the total, while **out-of-pocket expenditure remained marginally higher at 48.2%**.
- In states such as Uttar Pradesh, the out-of-pocket estimates were as high as 71.3%.

DTE

FEB 1

PASSIVE EUTHANASIA

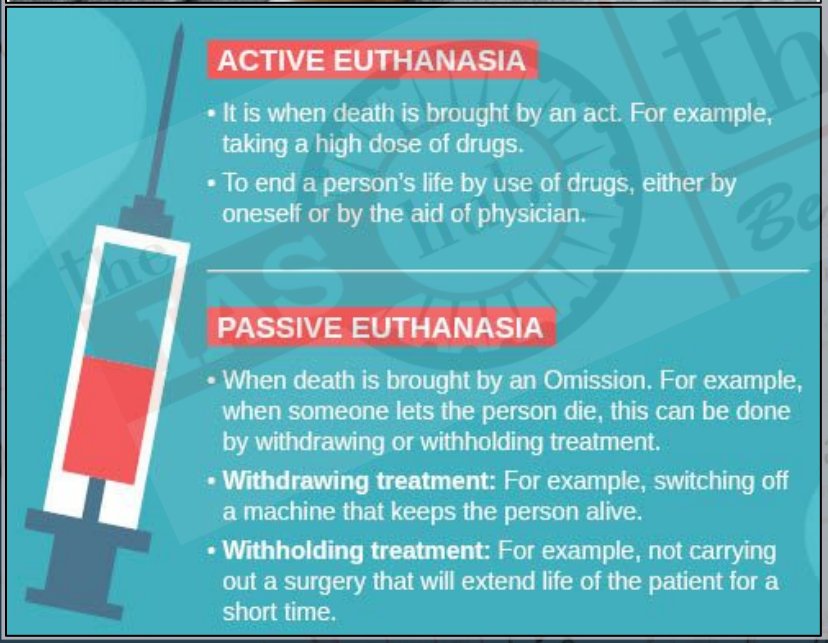
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

Passive euthanasia: Supreme court removes red tape, sets 48-hour timeframe

Earlier, passive euthanasia was a three-tier process and cumbersome for all involved

By Taran Deol
Published: Wednesday 25 January 2023





Context: Strengthening the **right to die** with dignity, the Supreme Court of India simplified the rules on passive euthanasia in cases of terminal illness by removing red tape and constituting a time-bound process.

Key Points

- The move, **hailed by medical professionals as necessary,** was preceded by a judgement in 2018 by a Constitution bench headed by justice KM Joseph.
- It **recognised the right to die** with dignity, noting that a person can draft a living will, detailing how they don't wish to be put on life support in the event they slip into an incurable coma.
- Earlier, **passive euthanasi**a was a three-tier process and cumbersome for all involved. Once the treating physician had confirmed that nothing more can be done to save the patient, a primary board was constituted by the hospital which gave its review.
- Then, a **review board** was put together by the collector, followed by approval or rejection from the district magistrate after verifying the facts.
- According to the 2018 judgement, only a **judicial magistrate could attest or countersign a living will**, which would remain with the district court.
- In the apex court's new judgement, this power has been given to a notary or a gazetted officer and the document will now be in the **national health records accessible by hospitals.**
- The 2018 judgement made **no mention of any stipulated time** within which a decision had to be made.
- Now, a secondary board must immediately be constituted by the hospital and the primary / secondary board must arrive at a decision **within 48 hours on withdrawal of further treatment.**
- Also, both boards will now be constituted by the hospital itself, removing the role of the collector.

PIB

FEB 1

INDIA'S CLIMATE ACTION
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

INDIA RANKS THIRD IN NET GAIN IN AVERAGE ANNUAL FOREST AREA IN LAST DECADE: ECONOMIC SURVEY 2022-23

Context: The Economic Survey 2022-23 highlights **India's climate vision** which is integrally linked to its vision of development that foregrounds the goals of poverty eradication and guaranteeing basic well-being to all its citizens.

Progress on India's Climate Action

- **India's Forest Cover**: India **ranks third globally** with respect to the net gain in average annual forest area between 2010 and 2020.
  - Among the Indian States, Arunachal Pradesh has the maximum carbon stock in forests and Jammu & Kashmir contributes the maximum per-hectare carbon stock of 173.41 tonnes.
- **Preservation of Ecosystems**: As part of dedicated efforts to preserve ecosystems, **India now has 75 Ramsar sites for wetlands** covering the area of 13.3 lakh hectares.
  - The economic survey also underlines an **increase in mangrove cover** by 364 sq. km. in 2021, as a result of various regulatory and promotional measures to protect and conserve mangroves.
- **Transition to Renewable Energy:** India is progressively becoming a favored **destination for investment in renewables.**
- **Green Bonds:** The Reserve Bank of India has notified the indicative calendar for the issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds for the fiscal year 2022-23, totaling ₹16,000 crore.
- **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)**: SEBI has issued new sustainability reporting requirements under the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR), which are more granular with quantifiable metrics in line with the principles ensconced in the **'National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct'.**
- **India at COP 27**: India has updated its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** by advancing its target of installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030, to 50%.
- **Initiatives related to other environmental issues**: The survey highlights the achievement of India in **doubling the tiger numbers in 2018**, four years before the targeted year 2022. The population of Asiatic Lions has also shown a steady increase, with a population of 674 individuals in 2020, higher than the 523 lions in 2015.
  - **New Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022**, & E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, have also been notified to promote the circular economy.

DTE

FEB 1

KELP FORESTS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

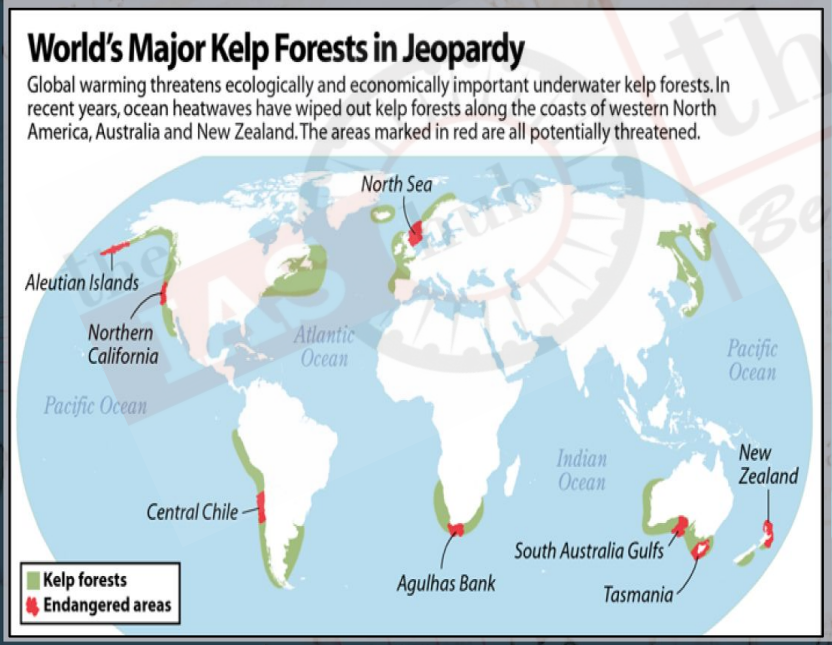


Kelp forests losing unique traits due to climate change, says study

Kelp populations at equatorward-range edges particularly vulnerable to climate change

NEXT NEWS >

By Shuchita Jha
Published: Wednesday 25 January 2023



Context: Kelp forests - underwater ecosystems formed in shallow water by the dense growth of several different species known as kelps - are declining because of climate change, showed a new study.

Key Points

- Kelp populations at **equatorward-range edges** are particularly vulnerable to climate change as these locations are undergoing warming at or beyond thermal tolerance thresholds.
- Due to this, the **unique adaptive or evolutionary genetic diversity** that the rear-edge populations (populations in warm, low-latitudes) may contain is also under threat due to rapid warming.
- Kelp forests **provide underwater habitats** to hundreds of species of invertebrates, fishes, and other algae and have great ecological and economic value. Loss of kelp forests will also lead to a decline of the unique biodiversity that they support.
- **Ecklonia radiata**, the dominant and most widely distributed Laminarian kelp in the southern hemisphere, rapidly succumb to warmer temperatures in spring and summer when temperatures exceed 27 degrees Celsius.
- Kelp can sometimes **persist at lower latitudes**, aided by cool water upwelling or in deep-water refugia where they are protected by thermocline (the transition layer between the warmer mixed water at the surface and the cooler deep water below).
- Identification of these refuge areas (a location which supports an isolated or relict population of a once more widespread species) is vital to **ensure important genetic diversity** is protected and to understand how extant and past climates shape species distribution and evolutionary diversity.

Secure Top Rank with theIAShub Courses

Prelims 2023 Courses

01 Prelims Crash Course Score Enhancement Program (SEP)

02 INA Current Affairs (Prelims)

03 TACKLE - Prelims Test Series

04 Geography - Prelims Crash Course

Quality Enrichment Courses (Mains 2023)

01 Quality Enrichment Program (QEP)

02 Science of Answer Writing (SAW)

Prelim Cum Mains 2024 Courses

01 NEEV GS Foundation 2024/25

02 INA Current Affairs Pre Cum Mains - 2024

FREE Download PDF

Login to theiashub.com

- Aaj Ka Quality Enrichment (Toppers' Favourite PDF)
- News-CRUX-10 (10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)
- Monthly Editorials (The Hindu & Indian Express)
- Daily Quiz (Prelims)
- Government Schemes & Ministry Wise Year End Review
- Free Enrichment PDFs (Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)



Log On To Our Unique
Free Answer Writing Sessions with Toppers (FAST) Portal
& Start Practicing!

SCAN HERE

9560082909

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com

www.theiashub.com