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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
सत्यमेव जयते

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INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

INFLATION TARGETING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Indian Economy)

Inflation target breach: RBI committee will meet to draft report for Govt

Likelihood of CPI target crossing 6% for 3 straight quarters

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

THE RESERVE Bank of India will call a special meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) after October 12 to discuss a report it will have to submit to the Union government explaining the reasons for the average retail inflation remaining above the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters.

The Union government, in consultation with the RBI, fixes the inflation target for the central bank every five years. It had fixed it at 4 per cent plus/minus 2 per cent (upper limit 6 per cent, lower limit 2 per cent) for the period August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021, and retained it for the next five years ending March 31, 2026.

With the political class over years realising that inflation or price rise hurts the poorest the most and also adversely impacts growth in the long run, the Union government decided to provide a statutory basis for implementing inflation targets by the RBI. A monetary policy framework was signed between then RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan (on behalf of the RBI) and then Finance Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi (on behalf of the President) on February 20, 2015. The RBI Act, 1934, was amended in May 2016, giving effect to this framework agreement.

The framework agreement requires the RBI to submit a report to the Union government if it is in breach of the inflation targets for three consecutive quarters. In eight years, this will be the first time the RBI would have let retail inflation slip beyond the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for three straight quarters.

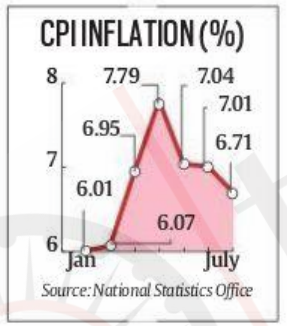
The average retail inflation in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

EXPLAINED

Managing inflation is key

THE RBI has multiple roles, but it's accountable for one primary objective — keeping inflation within a flexible range of 2 per cent to 6 per cent. If it fails, the RBI Act, through the monetary policy framework, requires it to explain why it couldn't stick to the target, what action it proposes to remedy, and by when it can set things right.



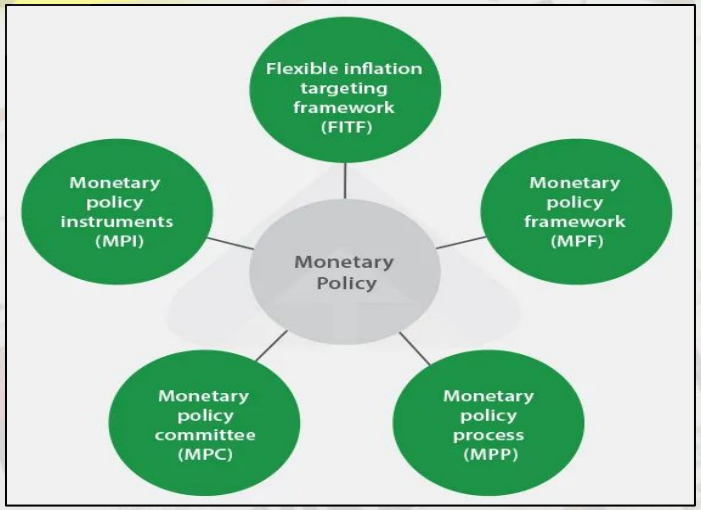
Context: In eight years, this will be the first time the RBI would have let retail inflation slip beyond the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for three straight quarters.

Current Inflation Target:

- The Union government, in consultation with the RBI, fixes the inflation target for the central bank every five years.
- It had fixed it at 4 % plus/ minus 2 % (upper limit 6 per cent, lower limit 2 per cent) for the period August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021, and retained it for the next five years ending March 31, 2026.

Flexible Inflation Target (FIT)

- A monetary policy framework was signed between then central bank and the government on February 20, 2015.
- The RBI Act, 1934, was amended in May 2016, giving effect to this framework agreement.
- The Flexible Inflation Target (FIT) was adopted in 2016.
- The framework agreement requires the RBI to submit a report to the Union government if it is in breach of the inflation targets for three consecutive quarters.



INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 6

INDO-PACIFIC ISSUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Eye on China, Jaishankar says Quad will benefit Indo-Pacific

Any reservation to it is 'unilateralist opposition', he says during Thailand visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK, AUGUST 18



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry in Bangkok. *PTI*

THE ENTIRE Indo-Pacific region will benefit from the Quad and any reservations to the activities of the four-nation bloc is possibly a "unilateralist opposition to collective and cooperative endeavours", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday, in an apparent reference to China's objection.

The Quad, or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia was set up in 2017 to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking at the prestigious Chulalongkorn University here on 'India's Vision of the Indo-Pacific', Jaishankar said the Quad is the most prominent plurilateral platform that addresses contemporary challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific.

"It has, in recent years, been meeting at the highest level. We had a summit in Tokyo a few months ago, and that itself is an indication of how substantive its work has become," he said.

"...We are confident that the entire Indo-Pacific region will benefit from (the Quad's) activities. And that is validated by the growing recognition of its importance in the international community," he asserted.

"If there are reservations in any quarter, these stem from a desire to exercise a veto on the choices of others. And possibly a unilateralist opposition to a collective and cooperative endeavours," Jaishankar underlined without naming any country.

China's foreign ministry has repeatedly opposed the Quad grouping.

It has said that the Indo-Pacific strategy "cooked up" by the US, in the name of "freedom and openness", is keen on forming "cliques". China claims that the grouping intends to "change China's surrounding environment".

Talking about the Indo-Pacific, Jaishankar said India envisages it as free, open, inclusive, peaceful and built on a rules-based order.

"We consider the Indo-Pacific as a region that extends from the Eastern shores of Africa to the Western shores of America," he said. "Over the years, this region has seen strong and sustained economic growth spreading across the Pacific rim, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Gulf region and the East and Southern Coast of Africa. More integration and more collaboration will only add to prosperity and progress," Jaishankar noted.

He also said the India-China relationship is going through an "extremely difficult phase".

Responding to a question, Jaishankar said that the Asian Century will happen when China and India come together.

"At the moment (the India-China) relationship is going through an extremely difficult phase after what China did at the border," he said.

Chinese and Indian troops are engaged in a prolonged standoff in Eastern Ladakh.

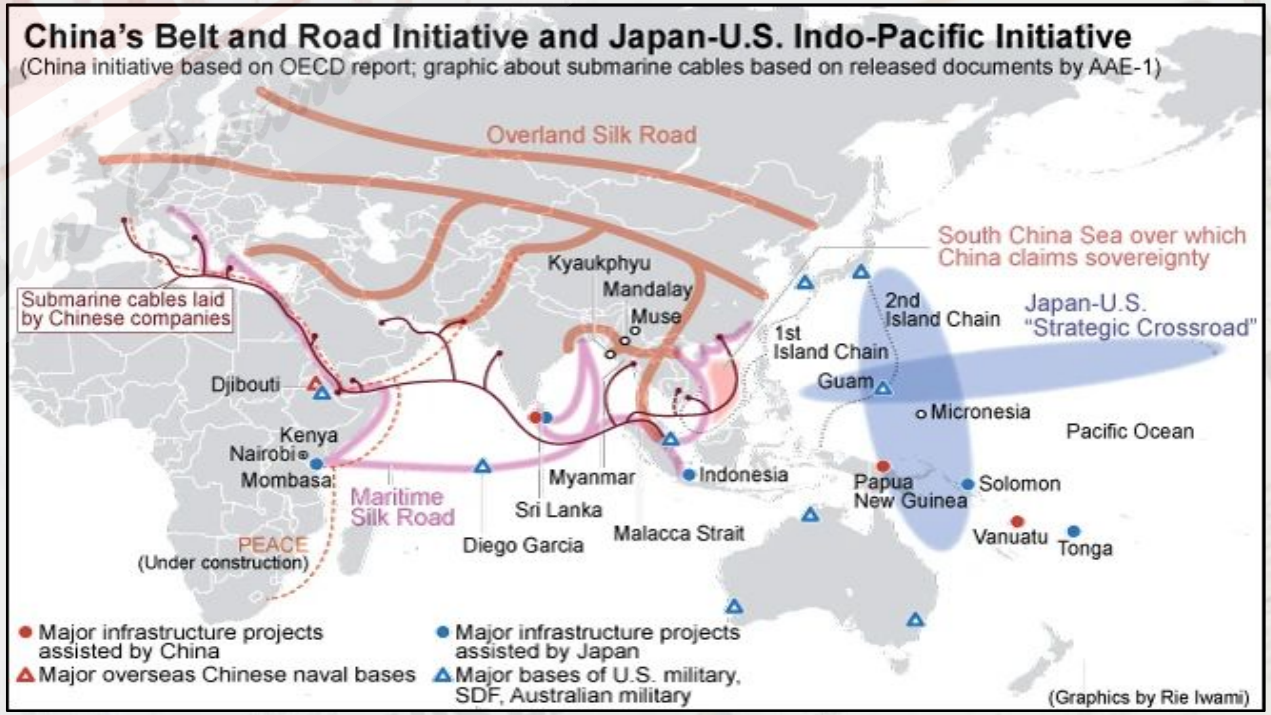
"I think if India and China have to come together, there are many reasons to do so, not necessarily only Sri Lanka," he said, adding that it is in India and China's own interest to join hands.

"We very much hope that wisdom dawns on the Chinese side," he said while replying to another question from the audience.

Context: The Quad is the most prominent plurilateral platform that addresses contemporary challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific.

Quad

- The Quad, or **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue,** comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia was set up in 2017.
- **Objective**: to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.



LIVEMINT

Page 2

PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

RBI paper bats for gradual ceding of government control from banks

Shayan Ghosh
shayan.g@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Adopting a "big bang" approach to privatization of public sector banks would do more harm than good, said an article published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday, instead advocating for a more gradual withdrawal of state control.

The article, written by Snehal S Herwadkar, Sonali Goel and Rishuka Bansal of RBI's banking research division of the department of economic and policy research, was accompanied by the usual disclaimer that views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect those of the organization. It was published in RBI's August bulletin. "The government has already announced its intention to privatize two banks. Such a gradual approach would ensure that large scale privatization does not create a void in fulfilling important social objectives of financial inclusion and monetary transmission," the article said.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union budget for FY22 that the government will pare stakes in two state-owned lenders apart from IDBI Bank, without specifying names.



The article found that PSBs account for the highest share of bank branches in rural areas. MINT

In support of its stance, the article said there is evidence that public sector banks (PSBs) are not entirely guided by the profit maximization goal alone and have integrated financial inclusion goals in their objective function unlike their private peers. Some of the recent reforms in the financial sector, it said, would also lead to strengthening of these banks.

"Our results also point out the counter-cyclical role of public sector bank lending. In the recent years, these banks have also gained greater market confidence. Despite the criticism of weak balance sheets, data suggests that they weathered the covid-19 pandemic shock remarkably well," it said.

The recent mega merger of 10 state-owned banks, the article said, has resulted in consolidation of the sector, creating stronger and more robust and competitive banks. That apart, the establishment of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), India's bad bank, will help in cleaning up the legacy burden of bad loans from their balance sheets, it said. The article added that the recently-constituted National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NABFiD) will provide an alternate channel of infrastructure funding, thereby reducing the asset-liability mismatch concerns of public sector lenders. "Overall, these reforms are likely to help strengthen the PSBs further," it said.

On financial inclusion, the article found that PSBs account for the highest share of bank branches in rural areas, followed by semi-urban areas, in adherence to their commitment to the financial inclusion objective. The PSBs dominate in meeting the credit demand of rural areas and while private banks have been making some inroads in these areas, their progress remains slow. "It is often argued that private banks (PVBs) meet their priority sector lending target of 40% fully and thus contribute towards financial inclusion. Granular data, however, show that the PVBs have met their priority sector targets not through organic lending but through investment in priority sector lending certificates (PSLCs), especially in agriculture and small and marginal farmers categories," it said.

Path To Privatisation

Govt focus should be on public welfare, development | **Fiscal support** to sick PSEs burdening economy | **PSEs shouldn't** run just for legacy

NEW MANTRA

Govt to move ahead from annual disinvestment target

100-odd assets identified for asset-monetisation pipeline

Medium term strategic approach for selecting PSEs

This is a ₹2.5-lakh crore investment opportunity

India should adopt global practices for price discovery



Context: Adopting a "big bang" approach to privatization of public sector banks would do more harm than good.

Government plan on the Privatization of PSBs

- **Union Budget 2020-21:** The government announced a new policy for strategic disinvestment of public sector enterprises.
- This policy provides a clear **roadmap for disinvestment** in all non-strategic and strategic sectors.
- The Banking Sector **falls under the strategic sector.**
- **Aim**: The government aims to keep a bare minimum presence in the strategic sector.
- In 2019, after a massive consolidation exercise, the **no. of PSBs reduced from 28 to 12.**
- Recently the **NITI Aayog consolidation plan** left 6 PSBs out of the Privatization plan.
- The **NITI Aayog suggested privatizing** all the PSBs except the SBI, Union Bank, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, and Bank of Baroda.
- Further, the government also decided to perform privatization of two PSBs in the next fiscal year.

LIVEMINT Page 5

GREATER FLAMINGO

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Environment & Ecology)

BEWARE THE SWOOPING HAWK



A MATTER OF NUMBERS

DILIP D'SOUZA

Respond to this column at
feedback@livemint.com



One February morning in Delhi was the first time I did something I've done a few times since. I rode my bicycle to one end of the runway at the airport and stood there for a couple of hours, watching planes land and take off. I remember that very clearly, but not really because of the planes. Riding home, my fingers got so cold that I feared they would fall off. Seriously.

Still, the planes. Both take-offs and landings were exciting, but the landings were far more intriguing. At some point afterward, I began wondering - when they descend from the sky, why do these flying machines need a long runway to slow to a stop? After all, their very creation was inspired by birds. With few exceptions, birds are able to transition from flight to perching on a branch in an instant. Admittedly, they are much smaller and slower than aircraft, and thus easier to stop. Even so, what is it about the flight of birds? Do they have some special mechanism in their wings and muscles that we have not (yet) been able to replicate in our planes?

True, different birds behave differently while coming to a halt. Watch flamingos swoop in to land in shallow water, and it's almost as if they run along the surface for a few steps before settling - reminiscent of planes using a runway. But there are small birds like sparrows or flycatchers, which seem to hover for moment right before sinking onto a twig. Or larger ones like hawks and kites, that will actually swoop up from below to perch.

I know this partly from watching plenty of birds on the trees near my home. But also because, as you have probably guessed, there are scientists who have studied the flight of birds. In particular, how they land. A recent paper in Nature, for example, begins thus: "Perching at speed is among the most demanding flight behaviours that birds perform and is beyond the capability of most autonomous vehicles" ("Optimization of avian perching manoeuvres", Graham K. Taylor et al, 29 June 2022, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-04861-4#Sec6).

Beyond the capability of, for example, planes.

The paper says researchers tracked the flight paths of four hawks - not once or twice, but nearly 1700 times over distances of 5, 7, 9 and 12 metres. Three were young males, "initially naïve to the task"; the fourth was "an experienced adult female." They flew these distances tempted by food the scientists made available at flight's end.

And what did they find? For their first few flights, the naïve birds flapped their wings and flew more or less directly across to the food. But only those first few flights. After that, some innate hawk instinct took over and they followed the technique more experienced birds - like the adult female - used. It went something like this:

The hawk leaps from where it is stationed, a post about 1.25m tall. It dives forward and downward, using "several powerful wingbeats" to do so. A little over halfway to the food, it has sunk to as low as just 35cm off the floor. But from that nadir, it climbs upward to the food. Its wings do hardly anything during the climb apart from limited moves to correct and control the flight. This "unpowered climb" is essentially a glide, using the momentum of the earlier dive to move forward and upward. As the bird nears the perch, it switches mid-flight to a position in which its body is nearly upright, its wings are outstretched and its feet are held out in front to grab the perch.

Thus lands the hawk. Seen from the side, its flight path is a shallow "U", the swoop of its trajectory unmistakable. But why this "U"?

The researchers report that after a session of these experimental flights, the birds were "usually panting visibly." You might conclude that while the hawks fly at relatively slow speeds over these relatively short distances, those powerful wingbeats use up a lot of energy. The slower a bird's flight, after all, the more it needs to flap its wings, the less it will glide. This is why the hawk dives at the start, you'd think, using gravity to increase speed. And while flapping does need substantial energy, the subsequent gliding climb means that overall, this U-shaped path uses less energy and even time than if the hawk flew directly to the food, beating its wings all the while just to stay in the air.

> The hawk's flight path gave it the best chance of perching in a controlled, stable way

In other words, hawks seek to minimize the energy used and time taken on a flight. This is the lesson experience quickly teaches the birds.

Or is it? What the scientists came to understand over those 1600 flights was slightly more subtle. The hawk's flight path was not necessarily one that made the best use of energy and time, but one that gave it the best chance of perching in a controlled, stable way. Every time. In fact, when the bird switches to that nearly upright position with its wings outstretched, it has practically stopped in mid-flight, in the air - and that's what lets it make a gentle, precise landing.

In effect, what the hawk is executing is a "stall" - a well-known danger for pilots. Raise the nose too much at too low a speed, and the plane stalls and falls out of the sky.

The hawk seeks a stall too. But if it happens too early, it falls and misses the perch. Too late, and it crashes at speed into the perch. The hawk's goal, then, is to minimize the distance of its stall - to postpone the stall as late as possible - to allow for that spot-on landing.

What hawks and other birds have, then, is the ability to change the shape of their wings mid-flight. That's how they can carry out these precise manoeuvres with such apparent ease.

And until our flying machines can do that, we will need those long runways.

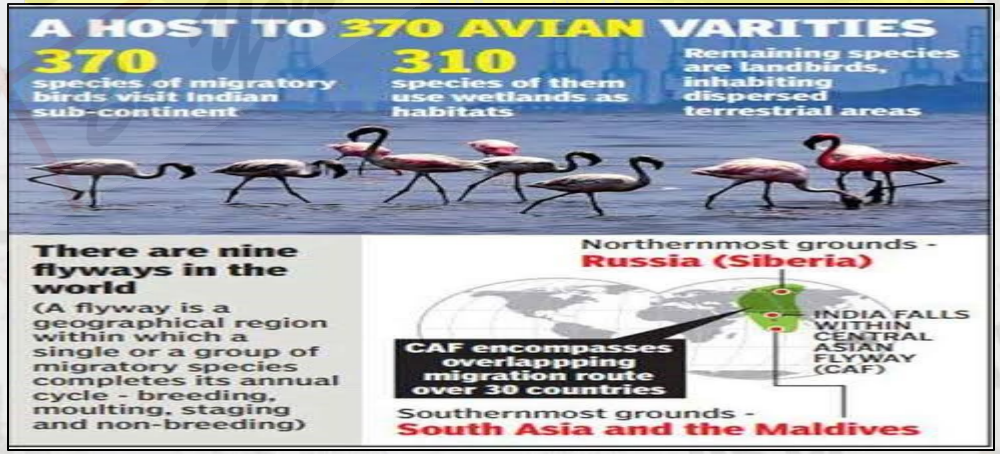
Once a computer scientist, Dilip D'Souza now lives in Mumbai and writes for his dinners. His Twitter handle is @DeathEndsFun

Flamingo

- **In India there are two species of flamingos -**
- **Greater Flamingo (Phoenicopterus rosues):** They are widespread in India, and they migrate to South India during winter and spend their time in large reservoirs and mud flats. IUCN status: Least concern.
- **Lesser Flamingo (Phoeniconaias minor):** They mainly breed at the Rann of Kutch/North-western India. IUCN status: Not threatened.

Greater flamingo

- Least concern - IUCN
- CMS Appendix II
- CITES Appendix II
- **Habitat**: Inhabits shallow eutrophic water bodies such as saline lagoons, saltpans and large saline or alkaline lakes
- **Range**: Regularly seen from West Africa eastward throughout the Mediterranean to South West and South Asia, and throughout sub-Saharan Africa.





Greater flamingo in Bahrain

Voice of the greater flamingo 0:00

Conservation status

Extinct | Threatened | Least Concern

EX EW CR EN VU NT LC

Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)[1]

CITES Appendix II (CITES)[2]

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Aves
Order:	Phoenicopteriformes
Family:	Phoenicopteridae
Genus:	*Phoenicopterus*
Species:	***P. roseus***

Binomial name

Phoenicopterus roseus

Pallas, 1811

Synonyms

- *Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*
- *Phoenicopterus antiquorum*[3]

THE HINDU Page 14

NAGA PEACE PACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal security)

BJP is delaying Naga peace pact with an eye on elections: Cong.

'Ruling party wants help from militant groups, not interested in resolving issues'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 2015 Naga Peace Framework announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a "farce" and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is delaying a solution to the Naga issue because the party takes help of militant groups to win elections, the Congress alleged on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters convened by All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge Ajoy Kumar and Nagaland Congress chief K. Therie, Mr. Kumar said the BJP only wants to win elections and is not interested in resolving the long-pending issue of peace in Nagaland.

"The solution is being delayed because the Modi government is seeking the support of armed groups of NSCN [National Socialist Council of Nagaland] to win Assembly elections in the State. Is there anything more anti-national than this?" asked Mr. Kumar.

"On 3rd of August, 2015, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] announced to this country that they have found the solution to the Naga problem. The Prime Minister has lied to the country, because there is no solution for the past seven years," he added.

Mr. Kumar also alleged that the Enforcement Directorate has reduced itself to being the "election department of the BJP" as it has stopped probing into the huge assets of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, since Mr. Rio's party, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), contested elections as the BJP's ally.

Mr. Therie said that the Naga people had a chance to choose between communist China and a secular India 75 years ago and they chose India. "Today the choice for people of Nagaland is should we opt for communalism or should we go with communists. Because secularism is failing," he said.

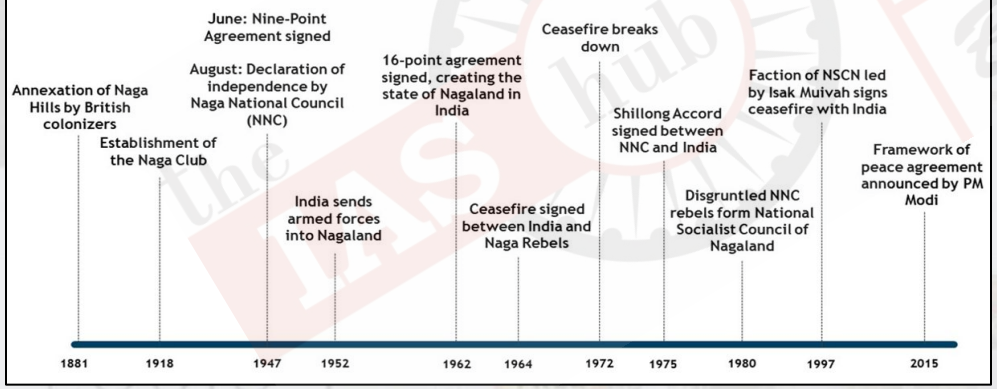
"We deserve an honest Prime Minister. Why does the Prime Minister continue to lie and betray the aspirations of the people who want peace and settlement," he said, adding that expectations of a major announcement on August 15 were belied.

> **On August 3, 2015, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] announced to this country that they have found the solution to the Naga problem. The Prime Minister has lied to the country, because there is no solution for the past seven years**
>
> AJOY KUMAR
> All India Congress Committee in-charge Nagaland



Context: The 2015 Naga Peace Framework announced by Prime Minister is a "farce" and delayed.

Timeline of the Naga Conflict



END OF LONGEST INSURGENCY?

1953 | Centre bans Naga National Council headed by Phizo

1956 | NNC establishes Naga 'federal govt'

1975 | Isaac Chishi Swu and Muivah reject Shillong Accord, form National Socialist Council of Nagaland in Jan 1980

1988 | NSCN splits into Isaac-Muivah (IM) & Khaplang factions. NSCN-IM banned in 1990



PM Narendra Modi with NSCN (IM)'s Thuingaleng Muivah

1997 | NSCN-IM signs ceasefire pact with Centre

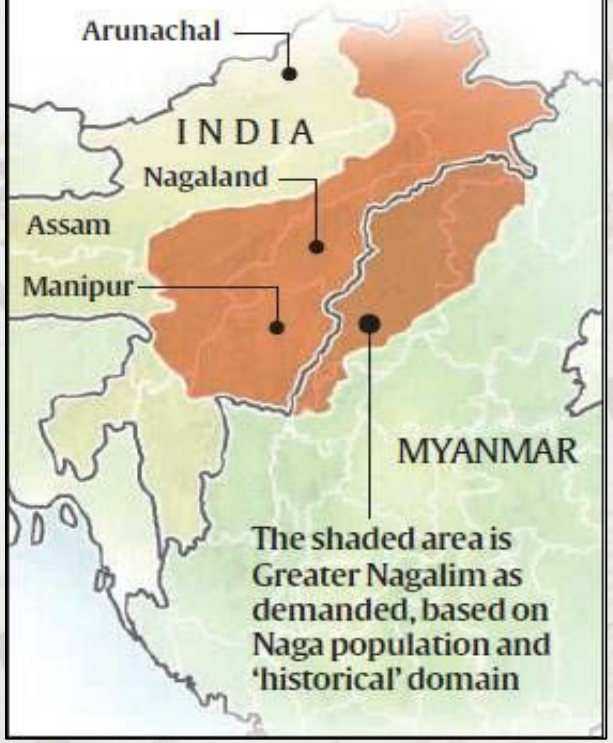
2015 | Party signs peace accord with Modi govt

WHAT THE PACT MAY ACHIEVE

- Silence India's longest running insurgency
- Open up Northeast, particularly Nagaland and Manipur, to **development and investments**
- **Isolate NSCN (K)**, which is active in Myanmar
- Help **curb extortion, kidnapping** and gun-running racket being fuelled by China
- **Improve ties** with neighbour Myanmar
- **Boost India's Act East policy** that had stalled due to the insurgency

WHAT NSCN-IM WANTS

Demand for Greater Nagalim includes all of Nagaland and parts of Assam, Arunachal, Manipur — and Myanmar



THE HINDU Page 15

DRUG PRICING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

SC hears plea to monitor drug pricing

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday took serious note of a plea to bring transparency in drug pricing and monitoring mechanism while pointing to a recent accusation against the manufacturer of Dolo 650 tablet of indulging in "unethical practices".

An NGO that has filed the petition said the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had accused the pharma group manufacturing the well-known drug of distributing freebies to the tune of ₹1,000 crore to doctors and medical professionals in order to promote its product.

"The 650 mg dosage is irrational," senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, representing the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Association of India, submitted.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who led the Bench hearing the case, said, "What you are saying is not music to my ears. This is exactly what I had when I had COVID-19."

Mr. Parikh said the market price of Dolo up to 500 mg was under regulation. Any dosage beyond 500 mg is outside regulation.

The petition urged the court to direct the government to give the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (Code) statutory basis.

Unethical practices should reap consequences. Companies should be made accountable, the federation said.

The court gave the government 10 days to reply to the petition. The federation would then have a week to file its rejoinder.

The court posted the case for September 29.

Context: The Supreme Court took serious note of a plea to bring transparency in drug pricing and monitoring mechanism while pointing to a recent accusation against the manufacturer of Dolo 650 tablet of indulging in "unethical practices".

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- Constituted by the Government of India in 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- An independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- **Under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995-2013 (DPCO)**: made to fix/revise prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations and to enforce price and availability of the medicines in the country.

Drug Prices Control Order, 2013

- **Under the provisions of DPCO 2013,** only the prices of drugs that figure in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are monitored and controlled by the regulator, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.
- **Paragraph 19 of the DPCO, 2013:** deals with increase or decrease in drug prices under extraordinary circumstances.

National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)

- Essential medicines are those that **satisfy the priority health care needs of the population.**
- These are selected with due **regard to disease prevalence, evidence on efficacy and safety, and comparative cost-effectiveness.**
- The list is **prepared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

TIMES OF INDIA

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CBI GENERAL CONSENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Shinde set to give CBI general consent revoked by MVA in '20

Prafulla.Marpakwar
@timesgroup.com

Shinde declares Dahi Handi a sport, announces Pro Govinda League



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde on Thursday declared Dahi Handi a sport and announced a Pro Govinda League to be organised across the state in the coming year, reports **Bhavika Jain**. Shinde said countries like Spain and China promote human pyramids as a sport and organise events. "The state government will organise Pro Govinda events and will also give prizes to winning teams," Shinde said. He said although the state had announced Rs 10 lakh insurance for all the govindas, the scheme will not take off this season, because of paucity of time.

Mumbai: The Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government is all set to reverse the decision taken by the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray to decline the general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe cases registered in Maharashtra. A proposal to restore the general consent to the CBI has been moved by deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, and it is expected that it will be cleared by chief minister Eknath Shindepossibly by Monday.

The clearing of the proposal will be a major setback for Thackeray as the decision to bar the CBI from entering the state for probing cases was an important one taken by the MVA government in October 2020. All along, senior MVA leaders had alleged that there was gross misuse of Central agencies, including the CBI, income tax department and the Enforcement Directorate.

Other states like West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan and Jharkhand had also withdrawn the general consent to CBI earlier. After his discussion with the CM, Fadnavis has submitted a comprehensive proposal to the CM, and it is expected to be passed. There is no need for a cabinet nod for the proposal as the CM has powers to approve it.

The MVA government had on October 21, 2020 withdrawn the general consent granted to the CBI for probing cases registered in the state as per the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

According to official records, a week after the Shinde-Fadnavis government was formed, it transferred two sensitive cases to the CBI. The first case was about illegal phone-tapping involving former state intelligence commissioner Rashmi Shukla, while the second case pertained to senior BJP leader Girish Mahajan, who is now a minister. Along with Mahajan, 28 people had been booked on charges of extortion and conspiracy in the case.

Context: The new government is all set to reverse the decision taken by the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government to decline the general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe cases registered in Maharashtra.

Consent for CBI

- The CBI is governed by The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.
- It must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
- Section 6 of The DSPE Act: Consent of State Government to exercise of powers and jurisdiction.
- The consent of the state government to CBI can be either case-specific or general.
- General consent is normally given by states to help the CBI in seamless investigation of cases of corruption against central government employees in their states.
- This is consent by default, in the absence of which the CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case, and before taking even small actions.

- General consent is the approval given by a State government concerned from time to time to the CBI (the agency originated from the Special Police Establishment) and other agencies covered by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (Central Act No. 25 of 1946)
- The consent is necessary as the jurisdiction of these agencies is confined to Delhi and Union Territories under this Act

DOWN TO EARTH

August 19

WEST NILE VIRUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Environment & Ecology)

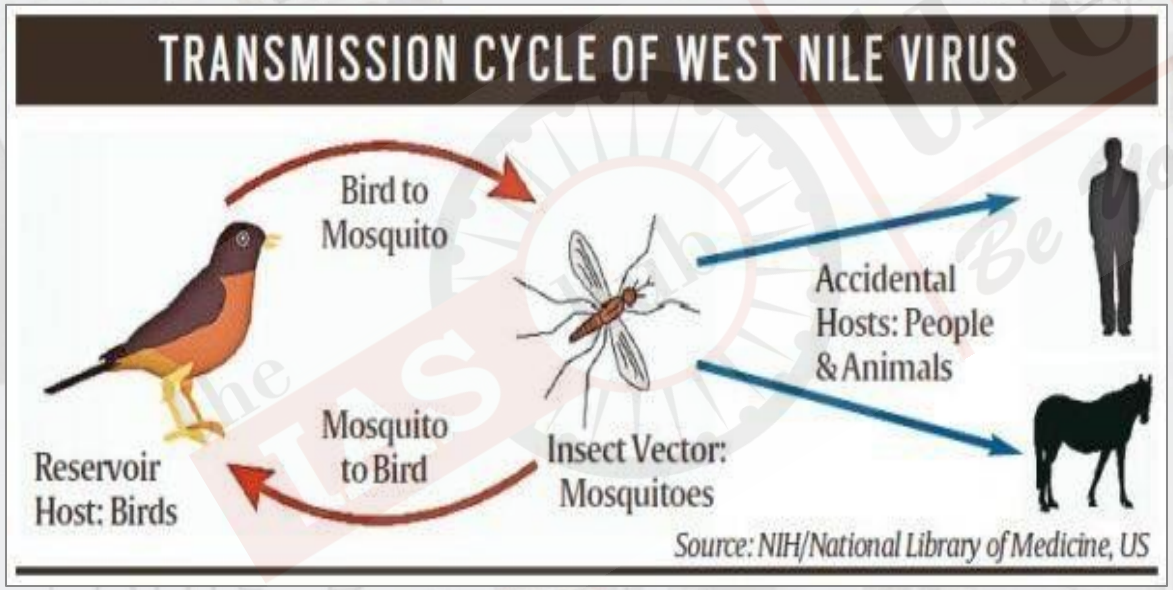
Did climate change trigger US's worst West Nile virus outbreak?

Wetter-than-average monsoon potentially facilitated a boom in mosquito population, which spread the virus

NEXT NEWS >

By Nandita Banerji
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Context: Monsoon 2021 saw the United States' largest single outbreak of West Nile virus (WNV) disease, with over 1,600 reported cases.

Key points

- Climate change increases the risk of human exposure to West Nile virus.
- Warmer temperatures associated with climate change can accelerate mosquito development, biting rates, and the incubation of the disease within a mosquito.

West Nile Virus

- A zoonotic virus, meaning it spreads from animals to humans.
- It is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.
- The virus circulates between birds and mosquitoes in nature, but not all birds react similarly to the virus.
- Some birds like crows and jays often die following infections.
- This is why some public health departments test dead birds for the presence of WNV as an early-warning indicator of local virus transmission.
- The virus is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito.
- WNV diseases occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall.
- There are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat it.
- The virus can cause neurological diseases and death in people.
- About a fifth of the people who are infected develop a fever and other symptoms.
- About 1 out of 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness.
- WNV is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
- A cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes maintains it in nature.
- Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected as well.

PIB August 19

EXERCISE VINBAX 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International relations)

Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise Vinbax 2022 Concludes at Chandimandir

Posted On: 18 AUG 2022 5:28PM by PIB Delhi

Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise VINBAX 2022 concluded at Chandimandir with an impressive display of Multi Agency Humanitarian Assistance in Disaster Relief (HADR) demonstration and an equipment display showcasing the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The exercise had commenced on 01 August and was focused on deployment of Army Engineer and Medical teams in UN Peacekeeping operations. What made the exercise unique was the fact that it was the first time ever that the Vietnam People's Army (VPA) was undertaking a Field Training Exercise with any foreign Army. The fact that Vietnam chose India for this honour, speaks volumes about the value the two countries place on their mutual relationship.

Highlights of EX VINBAX 2022

- A follow-up to last bilateral exercise, that conducted in Vietnam in 2019.
- Significant milestone of strengthening the bilateral relations between both the countries.
- Both the countries share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Defence cooperation is a significant pillar of this partnership.
- Vietnam is also an important partner in Act East policy of India as well as Indo-Pacific vision.

Theme of Ex VINBAX – 2022

- Employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team under United Nations Contingent for Peacekeeping Operations.

The next edition of VINBAX will be hosted in Vietnam in 2023.



DST

August 19

EXOMOONS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Sci & Tech)

Scientists formulate model to trace elusive exo-moons from JWST data

Scientists have developed a model to trace the so far elusive exomoons – natural satellites that revolve around exoplanets (planets orbiting stars other than the Sun) with the help of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), launched in December 2021. This may also help detect habitable exo-moons in the future and understand new worlds beyond our own.

So far, five thousand exoplanets --- planets orbiting stars other than the Sun, have been discovered by using several ground-based and space telescopes such as Kepler, CoRoT, Spitzer, and Hubble space telescopes. However, the natural satellites or exomoon around any of these planets still remain untraced.

Exomoons: Satellites Orbiting Planets Beyond Our Solar System

- Extrasolar moons, or exomoons, are moons that orbit a planet outside our solar system, called an exoplanet.
- Although nearly 4,000 exoplanets have been discovered by space telescopes like NASA's Kepler and TESS since 2009, only one exomoon has been described - and it's still unclear if it's actually a moon.
- Exomoons have the potential to be "super-habitable" worlds meaning that they are especially good places for life to evolve.
    - That's because moons don't exclusively depend on light energy from their solar system's star. Instead, they can get energy elsewhere, such as:
        - Reflected light
        - Radioactive elements
        - Tidal forces

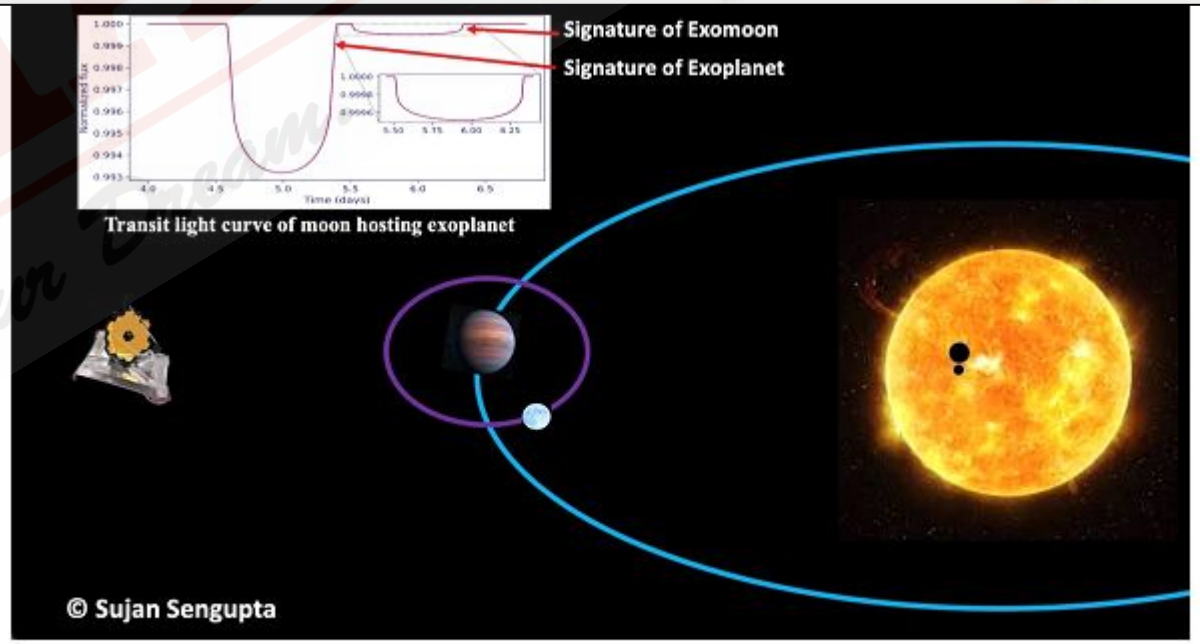


Figure: *Schematic diagram of moon hosting exoplanet and its model photometric transit light curve.*

THANK YOU!

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