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# CRUX 10

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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

# Table of Contents


1. Policy Rate in India
2. High Value Debt Listed Entity
3. Palm Oil
4. NICDIT
5. Sikkimese-Nepalis Community
6. ICCTEP
7. Marine Protected Areas
8. Cape Buffalo
9. Uniform Resource Locator
10. Transgender Pregnancy

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

# POLICY RATE IN INDIA

## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

# No change in stance, RBI hints at more rate hikes

Policy rate increased by 25 bps to a 4-year high of 6.5%

MANOJIT SAHA
Mumbai, 8 February

In line with expectations, the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday increased the policy repurchase or repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to a four-year high of 6.5 per cent.

The committee retained its stance of withdrawal of accommodation, though many thought that it would change this to neutral.

With the latest increase, the policy rate completed a cycle under RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, as the repo rate was 6.5 per cent when he took charge in December 2018.

In his first policy as MPC chair, the committee reduced the rate by 25 bps to 6.25 per cent in February 2019.

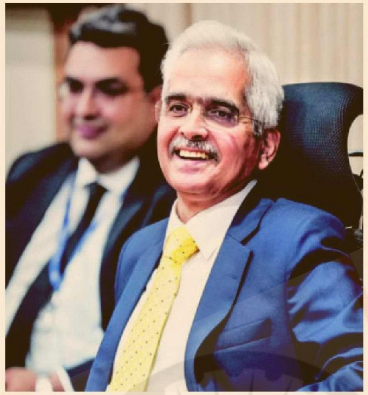
With the latest hike, the central bank has now increased the rate by 250 bps since May 2022. Though the quantum of increase was lower this time than previous hikes, the central bank refused to drop its guard against inflation, as there was no indication that this could be the last increase, as most market participants had expected.

On the contrary, the tone of the policy was a tad hawkish. "...the MPC was of the view that further calibrated monetary policy action is warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored, break the persistence of core inflation and thereby strengthen medium-term growth prospects," Das said, while announcing the rate hike.

Four out of the six MPC members voted for the 25 bps hike, while external members Ashima Goyal and Jayanth Varma voted against it. This is the most divided outcome in terms of voting of the current rate-setting committeee. Goyal and Varma also voted against maintaining the stance of withdrawal of accommodation.

While justifying the stance, Das said, adjusted for inflation, the policy rate was still lower than pre-pandemic levels and that banks continued to have surplus liquidity.

Turn to Page 7



Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das during a press conference in Mumbai on Wednesday PHOTO: PTI

### GROWTH, INFLATION PROJECTIONS FOR FY24

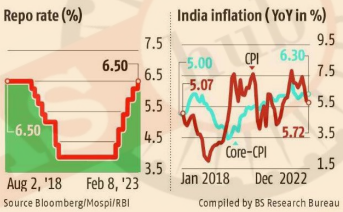
CPI inflation projected at 5.3% (assuming normal monsoon)

| | |
|---|---|
| Q1 | 5.0% |
| Q2 | 5.4% |
| Q3 | 5.4% |
| Q4 | 5.6% |

Real GDP growth pegged at 6.4%

| | |
|---|---|
| Q1 | 7.8% |
| Q2 | 6.2% |
| Q3 | 6.0% |
| Q4 | 5.8% |

### REPO RATE COMPLETES CYCLE







Source Bloomberg/Mospi/RBI

Compiled by BS Research Bureau

"WHILE INFLATION IS EXPECTED TO MODERATE IN 2023-24, IT IS LIKELY TO RULE ABOVE THE 4 PER CENT TARGET"

**Shaktikanta Das**
RBI, Governer

### 'Bank funding based on fundamentals'

Indian banks lend money to business houses not based on their market capitalisation but on parameters that depict the fundamentals of the business, said Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday. 7

### No rate pause in sight, bond yields harden

Traders of government bonds were not surprised on the sixth consecutive increase in the repo rate on Wednesday. What did dampen the market's spirits, though, was the lack of a concrete sign from the RBI that it would pause rate hikes going ahead. 6

**INSIDE**

EDIT: RETAINING POLICY FLEXIBILITY 13

G20 TRAVELLERS CAN USE UPI AT SELECT INDIAN AIRPORTS 7

**Context**: In line with expectations, the six member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the **policy repurchase or repo rate** by 25 basis points (bps) to a four year high of 6.5 percent.

**Policy Rate**

- **About**: The policy rate is the **key lending rate** of the central bank in a country.
  - It is a **monetary policy instrument** under the control of the Central Bank -Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - to regulate the availability, cost and use of money and credit.
  - A change in the policy rate alters all other short term interest rates in the economy, thereby **influencing the level of economic growth and inflation.**
  - A low interest rate regime is considered conducive to growth while it generally fuels inflation.
- **LAF**: In India, the fixed repo rate quoted for sovereign securities in the overnight segment of **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** is considered as the policy rate.
  - **Repo rate, or repurchase rate** in the overnight LAF window, is the fixed rate at which RBI lends to banks for a day.
  - This is **done by RBI** buying government bonds from banks with an agreement to sell them back at a fixed rate.
  - Repo rate changes transmit through the **money market** to alter the other interest rates in the financial system, which in turn influence aggregate demand - a key determinant of inflation and growth.
  - If the RBI wants to make it more expensive for banks to borrow money, it **increases the repo rate.**
  - Similarly, if it wants to make it cheaper for banks to borrow money, it **reduces the repo rate.**
- **Legal Backing for the Policy Rate in India**: The Reserve Bank of India and Government of India signed the **Monetary Policy Framework Agreement** on 20 February 2015, to task RBI with the responsibility for price stability and inflation targeting.
  - The term **'policy rate'** got first defined in this Agreement even though the repo rate had emerged as the key policy rate for signalling the monetary policy stance since June 2000.
  - Subsequently, the government amended **section 2 of the RBI Act, 1934** through the Finance Bill 2016 to give a legal backing for the aforementioned Monetary Policy Framework Agreement and inflation targeting approach in the conduct of monetary policy.
  - Accordingly, it was decided to insert **Section 2(iv)(ccccii) which defines "policy rate"** as the rate for repo-transactions under sub-section (12AB) of section 17 of the RBI Act, 1934.
  - **Sub-section (12AB) of section 17 of the RBI Act, 1934, defines "repo"** as "an instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities of the Central Government or a State Government or of such securities of a local authority as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government or foreign securities, with an agreement to repurchase the said securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds borrowed".

# HIGH VALUE DEBT LISTED ENTITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

## Sebi for Review of Governance Norms for High-value Debt-listed Entity

**Our Bureau**

**Mumbai:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed a review of corporate governance norms for a high-value debt-listed entity.

Last September, the regulator made corporate governance norms applicable to high value debt listed entities, a listed entity which has listed its non-convertible debt securities and has an outstanding value of listed non-convertible debt securities of ₹500 crore and above.

March 31, 2021, was used to determine the list of such entities.

Sebi rules state that in case an entity triggers the specified threshold during the course of the year, it should comply with corporate governance norms within six months from the date of such trigger.

At present, Sebi rules mandate that when such debt-heavy entities enter into related party transactions, they must obtain the approval of majority shareholders that are not related parties.



"Sebi is in receipt of representations/exemption requests regarding challenges faced by them in complying with... regulation 23(4) of the LODR Regulations. Entities have represented that their shareholding is wholly/ substantially held by one or a few shareholders, which are related parties," Sebi said in a discussion paper on Wednesday.

"Such shareholders, who are not related parties, either hold a negligible portion of the equity or none at all, in which case the entity will not be able to transact such RPTs because of 'impossibility of compliance' with the provisions of LODR Regulations," Sebi said.

As per Sebi data, in 93 debt-heavy entities, all shareholders are related parties, while in the case of 11 others, 90-99% of the shareholders are related parties.

In both these cases, either there are no non-related shareholders or very negligible to consider and approve the related party transactions, the regulator said.

Continued on ▸▸ Smart Investing

**Context**: The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a review of corporate governance norms for a **high-value debt-listed entity (HVDLE).**

**High Value Debt Listed Entity (HVDLE)**

- **About**: An entity which has **listed its non-convertible debt securities** on a recognised stock exchange and has an outstanding principal value of listed non-convertible debt securities of **Rs. 500 Crore and above** will be categorized as 'High value debt listed entity'.
  - The debentures which **can't be converted into shares or equities** are called non-convertible debentures (or NCDs).
  - **Non-convertible debentures** are used as tools to raise long-term funds by companies through a public issue.
  - In India, usually these have to be issued of a minimum **maturity of 90 days.**
- **SEBI's Proposal:** SEBI proposed corporate governance rules for **related party transactions (RPTs)** in a high-value debt-listed entity with an outstanding value of listed non-convertible debt securities of at least ₹500 crore.
  - The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has suggested the **need to review the listed non-convertible debt securities (LODR) Regulations,** relating to such transactions. The market regulator also stressed upon the need for shareholders' approval for related party transactions.

LIVE MINT

Page 1

# PALM OIL

## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

# Indonesian curbs on palm oil stokes inflation concerns

Ravi Dutta Mishra
ravi.dutt@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

International palm oil prices turned volatile a day after Indonesia, the world's largest exporter of the commodity, said it will suspend some export permits to cool cooking oil prices ahead of next month's Ramzan.

Indonesia currently allows palm oil manufacturers to export six times what they have sold at home under a policy called domestic market obligation (DMO). Exporters will be allowed to use those rights only after the situation has calmed, Reuters reported, citing Indonesia's senior cabinet minister Luhut Pandjaitan. Around a third of the total exports quota could be used now, while the rest could be used after 1 May, another official said.

The move assumes significance as India is the largest palm oil buyer from Indonesia and depends heavily on its imports. Experts fear that a long-term curb could drive up prices in India.

"This report has sparked a lot of uncertainty," said B.V. Mehta, executive director of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA). " It's unclear if Indonesia wants to restrict exports or improve domestic supply. There are contradictory signals. So, there is little clarity. The market has tightened because of this report. There is a fear that if Indonesia again restricts exports, prices in India could rise. The commodity market would stabilize only when we have clarity," Mehta added.

"We need to wait for official announcement to give any comments," the commerce ministry said in response to *Mint*'s query.

Every year, India imports about eight million tonnes of palm oil, accounting for nearly 40% of its overall edible oil consumption basket. Palm oil and its derivatives are used to manufacture soaps, shampoos, biscuits, and noodles, and supply disruptions promise to have a wide-ranging impact.

Palm oil prices in the international market doubled from $1,000 to $2,000 when Indonesia last banned palm oil exports. Mehta said Indonesia might avoid restricting exports as it suffered heavily in August. At a meeting in Delhi, Indonesian officials had requested Indian importers to restart buying as they ran out of storage capacity, and the fruits started to rot, triggering farm-

TURN TO PAGE 6

**Context: International palm oil prices** turned volatile a day after Indonesia, the world's largest exporter of the commodity, will suspend some export permits to cool cooking oil prices ahead of next month's Ramzan.

**Palm Oil**

- **About**: Palm Oil is a **low maintenance, high yield, perennial plantation crop**. It is one of the essential food items and widely used by a majority of Indians.
  - Palm oil is widely used for **blending refined oils.**
  - It is used as a **cooking oil and is omnipresent in packaged and processed foods**. It has widespread usage, in everything from cosmetics to processed food to cleaning products.
- **India's Status**: Palm oil accounts for over a third of India's edible oil consumption.
  - Overall, **India imports 60% of its requirements.**
- **Global Supply Chain: Indonesia and Malaysia** together account for almost 90% of the global palm oil production, with Indonesia producing the largest quantity at over 43 MT in the 2021 crop year.
  - Palm oil makes up 40% of the global supply of the four most widely used edible oils: **palm, soybean, rapeseed (canola), and sunflower oil.**
  - **Indonesia is responsible for 60%** of the global supply of palm oil.

## INDIA'S IMPORTS OF PALM OIL (IN LAKH TONNES)

| Fiscal (Apr-Mar) | Crude palm oil | | Refined palm oil | | Total palm oil | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Indonesia | Malaysia | Indonesia | Malaysia | Crude | Refined |
| 2015-16 | 37.09 | 33.76 | 21.48 | 4.24 | 71.12 | 25.72 |
| 2016-17 | 33.37 | 19.61 | 23.15 | 6.27 | 53.56 | 29.43 |
| 2017-18 | 45.85 | 17.21 | 23.57 | 4.16 | 67.50 | 27.73 |
| 2018-19 | 41.57 | 17.13 | 16.78 | 7.17 | 64.15 | 25.21 |
| 2019-20 | 42.72 | 14.89 | 3.71 | 17.9 | 61.76 | 25.02 |
| 2020-21 | 40.95 | 27.99 | 1.13 | 0.05 | 73.92 | 1.32 |
| 2021-22* | 21.27 | 28.43 | 6.93 | 2.15 | 59.78 | 11.19 |

*Apr-Jan. Source: Department of Commerce

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FEB 9

# NICDIT

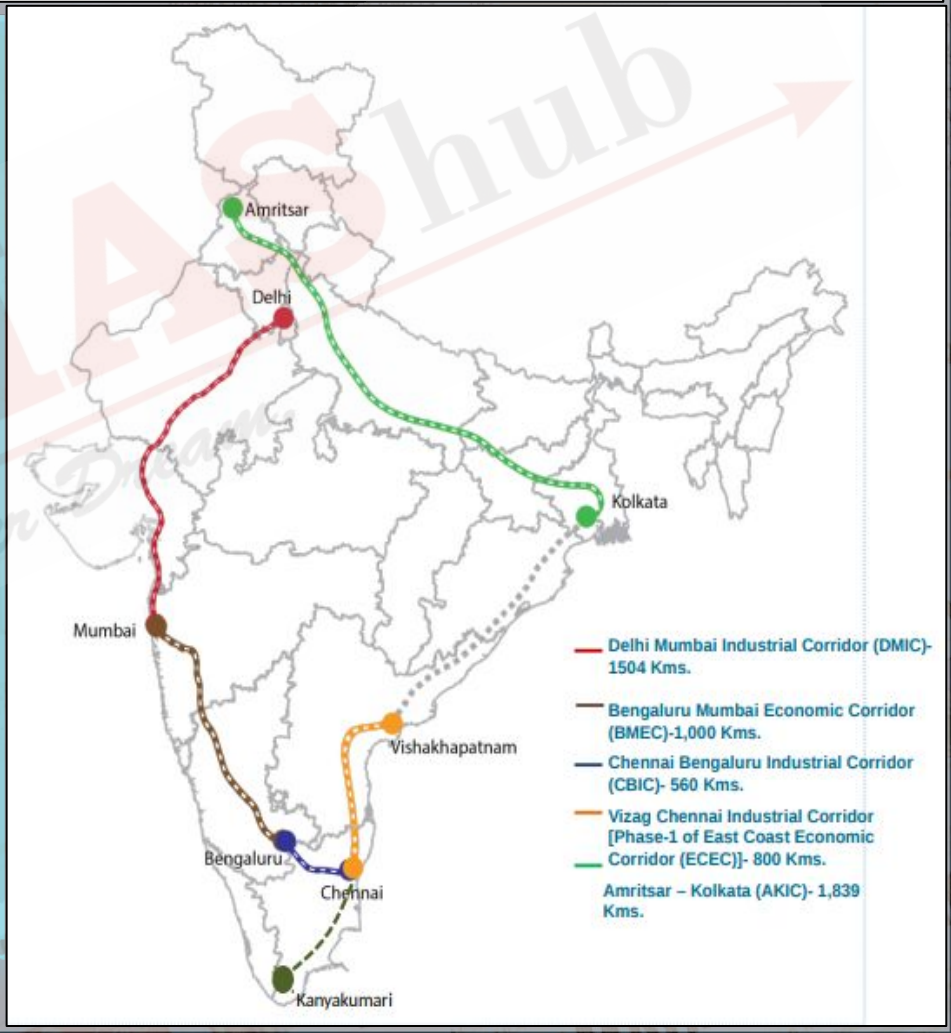
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

# Eight projects under National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) sanctioned and approved by Government

**Context:** Eight (8) projects under **National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)** have been sanctioned and approved by Government.

**National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)**

- **About**: The NICDIT is the **implementing agency of the National Industrial Corridor Programme.**
  - The Government of India is developing various Industrial Corridor Projects as part of the **National Industrial Corridor Programme.**
  - Each industrial in the Industrial Corridors is envisaged to be implemented by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** in the form of a company set up under the **Companies Act, 2013** as a joint venture between the central and the state governments.
- **Origin**: In 2016, the government approved the expansion of the scope of existing **DMIC-Project Implementation Trust Fund (PITF)** and re-designated it as NICDIT.
- **Nodal Ministry**: NICDIT comes under the administrative control of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
  - An A**pex Monitoring Authority** under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister periodically reviews the activities of NICDIT and progress of the projects.



INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 8

# SIKKIMESE-NEPALIS COMMUNITY

## (Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

# After protests, SC drops 'foreign origin' reference to Sikkimese-Nepalis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday ordered removal of certain remarks from a recent judgement wherein it had referred to Sikkimese-Nepalis as people of foreign origin, leading to protests in Sikkim.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna clarified that it was not the court's fault, but had happened as the petitioners had not brought to its notice amendments made to the initial petition that was filed. As a result, the court had relied on the first petition which bore the errors.

The offending portion had appeared in the concurring judgement delivered by Justice Nagarathna. It read as: "Therefore, there was no difference made out between the original inhabitants of Sikkim, namely the Bhutia-Lepchas and the persons of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like the Nepalis or persons of Indian origin who had settled down in Sikkim generations back".

The reference to Nepalis settled in Sikkim and persons of Indian origin as persons of foreign origin led to protests. Subsequently, the Centre, the state of Sikkim and some Sikkim-Nepalese people approached the top court seeking removal of the controversial phrases.

Hearing the applications, the bench initially agreed to delete the portion "persons of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like the Nepalis". Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, however, urged the court to delete the entire sentence.

He also requested the court to record in the order that it had not examined Article 371F which deals with special provisions with respect to the State of Sikkim. The bench, however, said this was not necessary as it had not touched on that aspect at all.

It agreed to delete the portion which read as: "Namely the Bhutia Lepchas and the persons of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like the Nepalise"

In its order, the court noted that the counsel for petitioners had been granted permission to file an amended writ petition. The same was filed but the amendments were not brought to the notice of the court by the counsel.

"It was their duty to bring to the notice of the court. Now the Miscellaneous Application has been filed seeking corrections as if error has occurred from the point of view of the court…Having heard learned senior counsel for the respective parties, we think it is just and proper to correct certain words used in paragraph....", the bench ordered.

The matter related to the exclusion of old Indian settlers, who had permanently settled in Sikkim before the state merged with the Indian union on 26.04.1975 from the definition of "Sikkimese" in Section 10(26AAA) of Income Tax Act. The SC judgement had held that this exclusion was unconstitutional.

**Context:** The Supreme Court ordered removal of certain remarks from a recent judgement wherein it had referred to Sikkimese-Nepalis as people of foreign origin, leading to protests in Sikkim.

**Background**

- The Union government extended the **Income Tax Act, 1961,** to Sikkim by repealing a monarchy-era Act – rather a manual – brought in by the Chogyal dynasty in 1961 to levy income tax on Sikkimese residents.
- Income Tax amendment Act 2008 defined who could be called **'Sikkimese'**, and therefore, the IT exemption to be extended to them.
- While the **exemption list included all tribal and non-tribal Sikkimese,** it kept out a minuscule section of people of north Indian origin who had moved to the kingdom during the British era for trade and employment.
- That section **did not give up their Indian citizenship** to become Sikkimese subjects during the Chogyal reign.
- Consequently, this lot was kept out of the **citizens' register (Sikkim Subject Register)** and, therefore, from the IT exemption brought into effect from 2008 onwards.
- Slowly, that section of settlers organised themselves to **fight that 'discrimination'** and for their inclusion in the exemption clause. A petition was filed before the SC.

**Supreme Court judgment**

- Hearing a petition filed by the **Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim**, the apex court decided on a rather pesky issue: whether those Indians who had settled in Sikkim prior to the kingdom joining the Indian Union in 1975 should be exempted from paying income tax, like the rest of the population in the Himalayan state is.
- It also dealt with another issue, whether Sikkimese women who have married non-Sikkimese persons after 2008 onwards should also be **exempted from paying income tax**.
- On January 13, hearing the Association's petition, a division bench of **SC passed an order in favour of the old settlers,** so also stating that Sikkimese women married to non-Sikkimese persons are also to be exempted from paying income taxes like the rest of the permanent residents of the state.
- The court's reference to the **majority community of the state - the Nepalis - as being of "foreign origin"** kicked up a storm, baring the ethnic and political faultlines.

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FEB 9

## ICCTEP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt. Policies & Interventions)

# Shri K. Rajaraman launches 'IEEE C-DOT Certified Telecom Expert Program (ICCTEP)'

**Context:** The Secretary (Telecom), Government of India & the Chairman, Digital Communications Commission, launched the **'IEEE C-DOT Certified Telecom Expert Program (ICCTEP)'.**

**Key Points**

- ICCTEP is a concrete step in furtherance of wide-ranging collaboration between the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).**
  - IEEE is the **world's largest technical professional organization** dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.
    - IEEE and its members inspire a global community through its highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional & educational activities.
  - **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** is the premier R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.
    - C-DOT has indigenously designed various cutting-edge Telecom technologies including 4G/5G, Disaster Management, Cyber Security and Quantum Communications.
- This platform will **offer specially-tailored certification program** that aims at providing quality learning in diverse areas of Telecom.
- The key focus is on **building skills** that would accelerate the participation of students, academia, technologists, industry, start-ups and other relevant stakeholders in developing globally-competitive Telecom technologies and solutions.
- The first program launched on the platform is on **5G and beyond.**

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FEB 9

# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

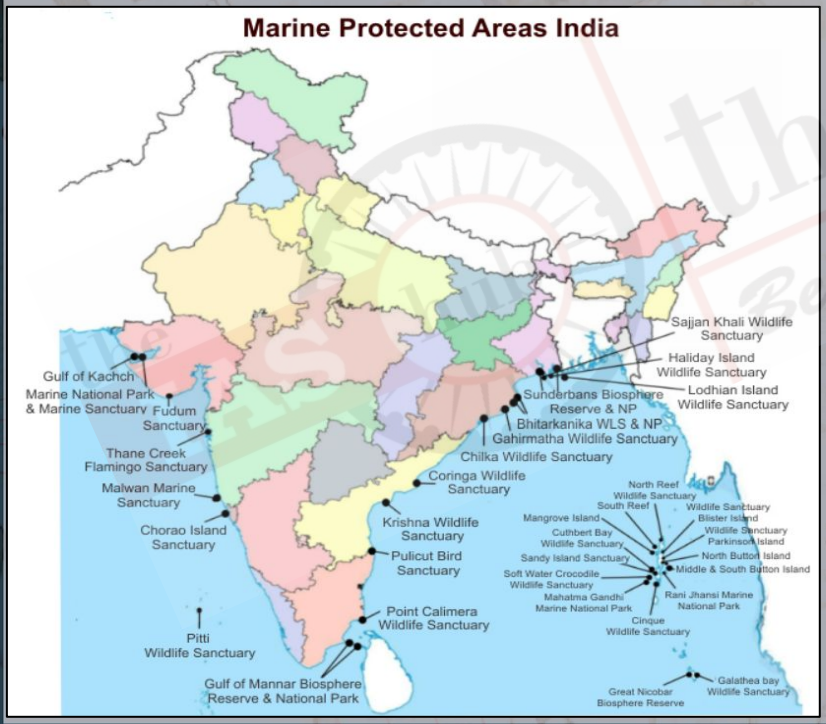
## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

**Marine protected areas are underfunded. Experts discuss ways to address the funding gap**

A well-managed and sufficiently funded MPA can restore good health to vulnerable ecosystems, help achieve global biodiversity conservation goals

By Rohini Krishnamurthy
Published: Wednesday 08 February 2023






**Context:** A lack of funding poses challenges to the benefits that **marine protected areas (MPA),** areas managed for long-term conservation, can potentially provide, according to experts.

**Key Points**

- Experts from across the world gathered at the fifth **International Marine Protected Areas Congress** in Canada to discuss solutions to address this funding gap.
- This is crucial as nations agreed to protect 30 per cent of the planet's lands and oceans by 2030 at the 15th **Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity** held in 2022.
- **Blue Finance**, a social enterprise, presented how they partner with local entities to build and manage four 'bankable' MPAs.
- The organisation has helped preserve 350,000 hectares (ha) of **high-biodiversity coral reefs.**
- This involves a partnership between the government and a local non-profit entity.
- The former remains the owner, while the latter is responsible for management functions.
- The four MPAs are **Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve in Belize, Mindoro Network in the Philippines, North Pemba in Zanzibar and Banggai in Indonesia.**

**Marine Protected Areas**

- In general terms, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a **marine area that provides protection for all** or part of the natural resources it contains.
- Within an MPA, **certain activities are limited**, or entirely prohibited, to meet specific conservation, habitat protection, ecosystem monitoring or fisheries management objectives.
- MPAs **do not necessarily exclude fishing,** research or other human activities; in fact, many MPAs are multi-purpose areas.

DTE

FEB 9

# CAPE BUFFALO

**(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)**



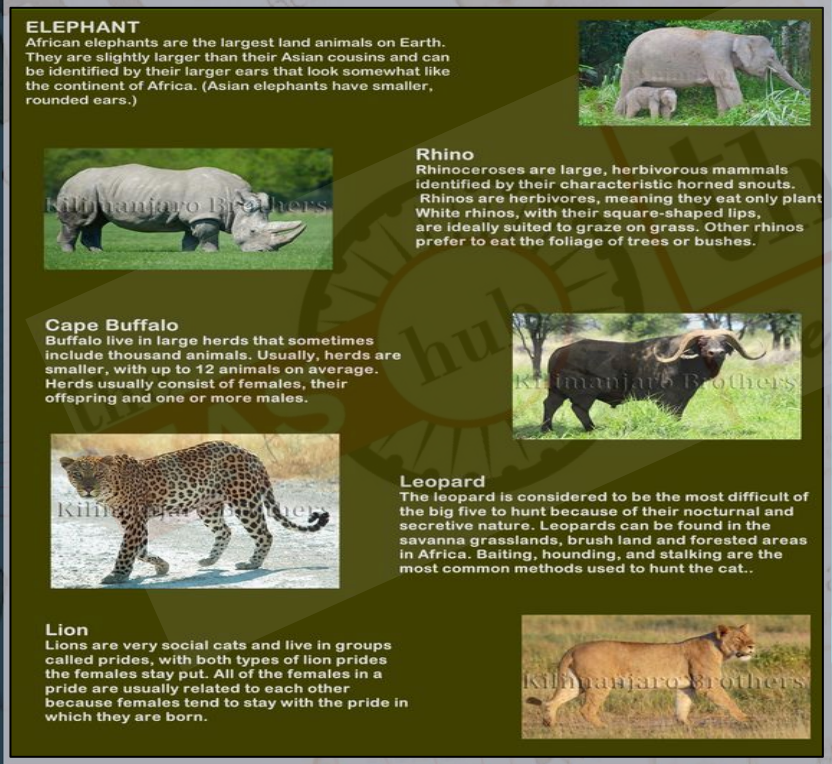
**Of Van Riebeeck and the 'Big Boss': European colonisation decimated Cape Buffalo in South Africa, study finds**

Several large mammals were hunted to extinction or near-extinction during the 3 centuries of colonial rule in the region

NEXT NEWS >

By Rajat Ghai
Published: Thursday 09 February 2023






**Context:** The **Cape Buffalo,** one of the icons of Africa, suffered decimation in what is today's South Africa after Europeans began to colonise the region in 1652 Common Era (CE), a recent study has found.

**Key Points**

- The Cape Buffalo is **one of the 'Big Five' species in Africa,** the others being the lion, the leopard, the elephant and the rhino.
- These animals have long been considered the **most dangerous by big game hunters** in Africa.
- The Cape Buffalo is especially feared as it is **temperamental and unpredictable.**
- It is one of the four **subspecies of African Buffalo** found south of the Sahara, the others being the forest buffalo, the West African Savanna Buffalo and the Central African Savanna Buffalo.
- The Cape Buffalo is **found across the savannas of east and southern Africa.**
- Today, the African buffalo is categorised as **'Near-Threatened'** on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List due to a number of factors including hunting, habitat fragmentation and culling.

THE HINDU Page 8

# UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

# 6,775 URLs blocked in 2022, panel met 53 times

The previous highest was 9,849 in 2020, when the government blocked several posts on social media that were critical of its handling of the pandemic; in 2021, there were 6,096 block orders

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A committee to consider blocking requests under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009, met 53 times in 2022, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology told Parliament on Wednesday.

The government issued orders directing the "blocking [of] a total of 2,799; 3,635; 9,849; 6,096 and 6,775 URLs during the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively", Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a written reply, in response to a question by Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram.



**Keeping track:** Blocking requests are considered under the provisions of Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000. ISTOCKPHOTO

In 2020, the government blocked several posts on social media that were critical of its handling of the pandemic, and also advised social media platforms to curb posts that called the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus an "Indian" one. After that year, 2022 represents the highest number of blocking orders issued to Internet providers and social media platforms.

An RTI response obtained by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) reveals that of the 6,775 posts and websites, almost half were posts on Twitter. The social media platform has been fighting against some takedown orders in the Karnataka High Court, but after the company was acquired by businessman Elon Musk, it has said that legal requests that are valid and and from an authorised entity will be complied with.

"If the Twitter and non-Twitter URLs are taken together, the average for blocking orders recommended by the Review Committee under Rule 7 in 2021 is hundreds per month," CHRI director Venkatesh Nayak wrote in an analysis.

"The Secretary [of] MeitY and the Committee are required to apply their mind to hundreds of such orders every month before giving their approval," Mr. Nayak pointed out. "How much time they have actually devoted to such matters is anybody's guess."

**Context:** The government issued orders directing the "blocking of a total of 2799, 3635, 9849, 6096 and 6775 **URLs** during the year 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively.

- A committee to consider blocking requests under the **Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules**, 2009, met 53 times in 2022.

**Uniform Resource Locator (URL)**

- **About**: A uniform resource locator, or URL, is a **short string containing an address** which refers to an object in the "web." URLs are a subset of URIs.
  - It is a **web resource** that specifies its location on a computer network and a mechanism for retrieving it.
  - Just as buildings and houses have a street address, web pages also have **unique addresses** to help people locate them. On the Internet, these addresses are called **URLs (Uniform Resource Locators).**
- **Origin**: The URL was **introduced in 1994** by Tim Berners-Lee as well as the Working Group on Internet Engineering.
- **Information included in the URL:**
  - **Name of the protocol**: A colon accompanied by a double forward slash: (//)
  - **Hostname** (name of domain) or IP Address
  - A colon accompanied by the **port number**
  - The **file's path**

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

# TRANSGENDER PREGNANCY

## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

# In a first, Kerala trans couple has biological baby

A Kerala couple on Wednesday became possibly India's first pair of biological transgender parents without surrogacy after one of the partners who identifies as a trans man gave birth to a baby midway through a physical transition with surgery and hormone therapy. The newborn's gender wasn't revealed. Zahad, born a woman, had conceived with partner Ziya after giving adoption a thought, only to discard the idea and take a chance with halting hormone therapy and other gender affirmation procedures. **P9**

**Context:** A Kerala couple became possibly **India's first pair of biological transgender parents** without surrogacy after one of the partners who identifies as a trans man gave birth to a baby midway through a physical transition with surgery and hormone therapy.

**Transgender pregnancy**

- **About**: Transgender pregnancy is the **gestation of one or more embryos or fetuses** by transgender people.
  - Currently, the **possibility is restricted to those born with female reproductive systems,** and transition-related treatments may impact fertility.
  - Transgender men and nonbinary people who are or wish to become pregnant face social, medical, legal, and psychological concerns.
  - As **uterus transplantations are currently experimental**, and none have successfully been performed on trans women, they cannot become pregnant.
- **Trans men**: Pregnancy is **possible for transgender men** who retain functioning ovaries and a uterus.
  - Regardless of prior **hormone replacement therapy (HRT) treatments**, the progression of pregnancy and birthing procedures are typically the same as those of cisgender women.
  - **Cisgender** is a term used to describe a person whose gender identity corresponds to their sex assigned at birth. The word cisgender is the antonym of transgender.
- **Trans women**: Pregnancy is **not possible for transgender women** as they lack a female reproductive system.
- **Non-binary people**: Non-binary people with a **functioning female reproductive system can give birth.**
  - Non-binary people who are assigned female at birth are more likely than binary trans people to become pregnant since they are **less likely to seek gender-affirming medical procedures** that interfere with their fertility.
  - **Not all non-binary people (or trans people of any gender identity) medically transition through hormone replacement therapy (HRT)** or any kind of surgeries due to various factors ranging from medical conditions, accessibility and/or expenses, but those that do have to interrupt their HRT in order to carry the pregnancy.
  - Unintended pregnancies by non-binary people on **testosterone therapy** may be more common if they are on a low dose of testosterone.
  - Non-binary parents choose whether to be called "mom" or "dad", or to utilize newly-coined **gender-neutral or non-binary titles.**

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