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KHALISTAN ISSUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)



Jaishankar raises Khalistan issue with UK leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, NOVEMBER 16

S Jaishankar concluded his visit to the UK on Wednesday

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar has raised India's long-standing concerns about pro-Khalistan extremism in the UK during his meetings with the country's top leaders, stressing that they should be on guard against the misuse of freedom of expression and speech.

Jaishankar concluded his five-day visit to the UK on Wednesday, which he described as "timely" after a series of cross-party engagements amid "substantial progress" on the ongoing free trade agreement negotiations.

India's concerns regarding pro-Khalistan extremism in relation to the safety of its diplomats in the country were among the topics that came up during his meetings with UK Home Secretary James Cleverly and National Security Adviser (NSA) Tim Barrow.

"We have long-standing concerns about extremist and sometimes even violent activities of various forces, including those who propagate Khalistan," said Jaishankar.

"We have been trying to get the government here to understand that while we as a fellow democracy certainly understand the importance of freedom of expression, and of speech, they should be on guard against the misuse of these freedoms," he said.

With reference to the violent protests at India House in March, he said the "gravity of the situation is sharply recognised" and India's expectation is that its diplomatic mission would be provided requisite protection to conduct their activities in an unrestricted way and there would be a "firm stance against the advocacy of violence and extremism".

During his meeting with Home Secretary Cleverly, the two leaders "underscored the need for close collaboration on combating violent extremism and radicalism and agreed to deepen and expand dialogue on these and other shared concerns," the MEA said. At his meeting with British PM Rishi Sunak, Jaishankar conveyed best wishes on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sunak and Jaishankar expressed satisfaction at positive momentum in enhancing the India-UK relationship.

They reviewed implementation of Roadmap 2030 and discussed ongoing negotiations for a India-UK Free Trade Agreement. During a media interaction, he shared insights from his discussions with the UK Cabinet ministers.

His last engagement was an in-conversation session entitled 'How a billion people see the world' organised by Wilton Park in London.

Context: The **External Affairs Minister of India recently addressed** India's longstanding concerns about **pro-Khalistan extremism in the UK during his meetings** with the country's top leaders.

Khalistan Movement

- **About**: The Khalistan movement signifies a longstanding struggle seeking the establishment of a **separate and sovereign Sikh state in the Punjab region**, spanning parts of India and Pakistan.
- **Origin**: This movement originated in the aftermath of India's **independence and the Partition in 1947**, leading to the severe communal violence and the division of the Punjab province between India and Pakistan, causing millions of refugees.
- **Operation Blue Star**: The movement encountered **severe repression in India, notably through military operations** such as Operation Blue Star in 1984 and subsequent actions known as Operation Black Thunder in 1986 and 1988.
- **Legal Status in India:** In India, the Khalistan movement and its affiliated groups have been outlawed, with government authorities viewing them as a significant national security threat.
- **Global Influence**: Despite suppression in India, the Khalistan movement retains support, particularly in North India and among the Sikh diaspora in countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom.

Khalistan and Canada Relation

- **Sikh Population in Canada**: Canada boasts the world's second-largest Sikh population, trailing only behind India..
- **Hub of Separatists**: Canada's liberal environment, marked by values such as liberalism, human rights, and free speech, has made it an attractive haven for anti-Indian propaganda fueled by Pakistan's ISI and separatist groups.
- **Trudeau's Political Compulsions**: Justin Trudeau, driven by political compulsions, faces the rising popularity of Jagmeet Singh and his liberal New Democratic Party (NDP) within Canada's current political landscape.

THE HINDU

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CHIKUNGUNYA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

How was the first vaccine for chikungunya approved?

What would be the impact of the new vaccine? How is the disease spread and can it be cured? What are the common symptoms of the disease described as an emerging global health threat?

Ramya Kannan

The story so far:

On November 9, the world's first vaccine for chikungunya was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the U.S. The vaccine has been developed by European vaccine manufacturer Valneva and will be available under the brand Ixchiq, and has been approved for administration in people who are 18 years or older, and are at increased risk of exposure to the virus. It was approved using the Accelerated Approval pathway, which allows the FDA to clear certain products for serious or life-threatening conditions based on evidence of a product's effectiveness that is likely to provide clinical benefit.

What is chikungunya?

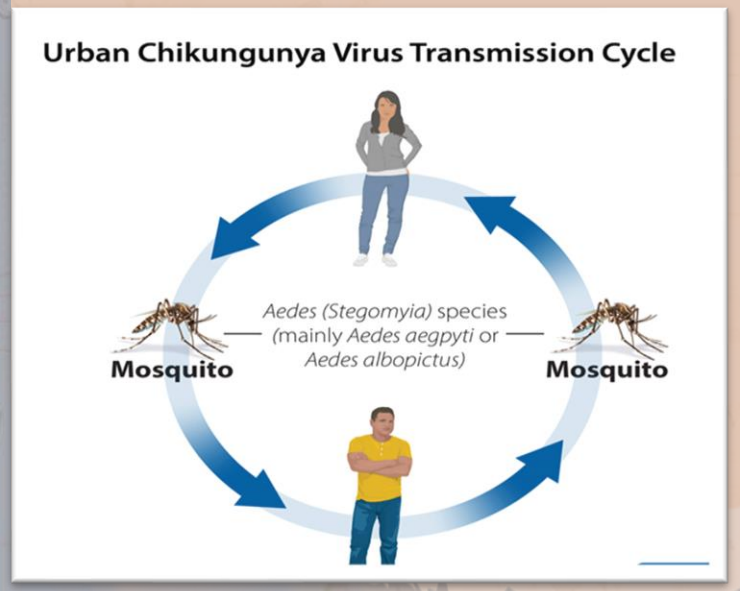
Chikungunya, is characterised by severe joint pain and impaired mobility, and comes with fever. It is a viral infection (CHIKV) transmitted primarily by the Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes and has been described as "an emerging global health threat."

The WHO fact sheet says Chikungunya is prevalent in Africa, Asia, and the Americas; but sporadic outbreaks have been reported in other regions. Since 2004, outbreaks of CHIKV have become more frequent and widespread, partly due to viral adaptations allowing the virus to be spread more easily by the Aedes albopictus mosquitoes. The joint pain is often debilitating and varies in duration; it can last for a few days, but also be prolonged over months. Other symptoms include joint swelling, muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash. While severe symptoms and deaths from chikungunya are rare and usually related to other coexisting health problems, it is believed that the numbers are generally underestimated, because chikungunya is often misdiagnosed as dengue or zika, as symptoms can seem similar. As of now, there is no cure, only symptomatic relief, with analgesics to help with the pain, antipyretics for the fever, rest, and adequate fluids.

Prevention includes mosquito control activities, primarily falling under public health outreach and routine civic maintenance. Individuals are also advised to use medicated mosquito nets and ensure that there is no water stagnation in any containers at home, in order to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

What is the vaccine composition?

Ixchiq is administered as a single dose by injection into the muscle. It contains a live, weakened version of the chikungunya virus and may cause symptoms in the vaccine recipient similar to those experienced by people who have the disease. Its safety was evaluated in two clinical studies conducted in North America in which about 3,500 participants, 18 years of age and older, received a dose of the vaccine with the



Context: The **world's first vaccine for chikungunya** was recently **approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** in the U.S.

Chikungunya

- **About:** Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the chikungunya virus (CHIKV), an RNA virus in the alphavirus genus of the family Togaviridae.
- **Name Origin**: The name chikungunya derives from a word in the Kimakonde language, meaning "to become contorted".
- **Distribution**: CHIKV was first identified in the United Republic of Tanzania in 1952 and subsequently in other countries Africa and Asia.
- **Outbreaks**: Urban outbreaks were first recorded in Thailand in 1967 and in India in the 1970s.
- CHIKV has now been identified in over 110 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.
- **Transmission**: By mosquitoes, most commonly Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti and Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus, which can also transmit dengue and Zika viruses.
- **Symptoms**: CHIKV disease onset is typically 4–8 days (range 2–12 days) after the bite of an infected mosquito.
- Fever, frequently accompanied by severe joint pain, muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash.
- **Treatment**: There is no specific antiviral drug treatment for CHIKV infections.

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EX-MITRA SHAKTI
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

INDIA - SRI LANKA JOINT EXERCISE MITRA SHAKTI – 2023 COMMENCED TODAY

Context: The 9th edition of **Joint Military exercise "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023"** recently **commenced in Aundh (Pune)**, marking a significant collaboration between the participating nations.

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI

- **About:** It is a bilateral joint military exercise between the armies of **India and Sri Lanka.**
- **Objectives:** The objective of the exercise is to jointly rehearse the conduct of Sub-Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- **Scope:** The scope of the exercise includes synergizing joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.
- **Aim**: To jointly rehearse conduct of Sub Conventional operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. The Scope of the exercise includes synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.

Significance of the Excercise MITRA SHAKTI

- The **joint drills encompass a broad range of combat skills**, fostering a mutual exchange of views and practices among participants.
- **Participants are poised to learn from each other**, with the expectation that the sharing of best practices will elevate the level of defense cooperation between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army.

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CYCLONE MADHILI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Cyclone Midhili to make landfall along Bangladesh Coast in early hours of November 18

Context: Recently, **experts have warned that two back-to-back Context**: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) **recently announced that Cyclone Midhili has developed in the northwest Bay of Bengal** during the early hours.

Cyclone Madhili

- **About** : It is a cyclonic storm that is expected to intensify over the **Bay of Bengal**.
- The storm is expected to cross the Bangladesh coast and bring heavy rainfall to West Bengal's coastal districts.
- The name Midhili was proposed by the **Maldives.**

Cyclone

- **About**: A cyclone is a large, rotating storm system with low pressure at its center. Cyclones can form in any ocean basin, but they are most common in the tropics.
- **Impacts**: Cyclones can cause a variety of hazards, including strong winds, storm surges, and heavy rainfall.
- **Types of Cyclones**
  - **Tropical cyclones**: These are the most common type of cyclones. They form over warm, tropical oceans and are characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges.
  - **Extratropical cyclones**: These cyclones form over cooler waters and are not as strong as tropical cyclones. They are characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and snow.
  - **Mid-latitude cyclones**: These cyclones form in the midlatitudes and are characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and snow.
- **The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:**
  - Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C;
  - Presence of the Coriolis force;
  - Small variations in the vertical wind speed;
  - A pre-existing weak-low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation;
  - Upper divergence above the sea level system.

ECONOMIC TIMES Page 2

ADMM-PLUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)



Defence minister Rajnath Singh in Jakarta on Thursday – PTI

POSITION ON GROUPING'S CENTRALITY REAFFIRMED

At Asean Meet, Rajnath Bats for Freedom on International Waters

Calls for collaboration among nations for security of region

Manu.Pubby@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India is committed to freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce on international waters, defence minister Rajnath Singh said at the Asean Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus in Indonesia, calling for collaboration amongst regional countries for peace and security.

The minister's reference came days after he spoke about increasing convergence with the US in combating Chinese aggression and supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific Region. Singh also met US secretary for defence Lloyd Austin on the sidelines of the conference, with the two sides reviewing progress achieved on the bilateral defence partnership.

Speaking at the conference in Jakarta, the minister reaffirmed India's position on Asean centrality and its commitment to adherence of international laws when it comes to global commons.

"The minister called for regional security initiatives that are consultative and development-oriented to reflect the larger consensus among various stakeholders. He committed towards nurturing practical, forward-looking and result-oriented cooperation with ADMM-Plus for enhancing maritime security in the region," an official said.

The minister also spoke on the necessity of dialogue and diplomacy to have enduring peace and global stability. Singh also reaffirmed India's message that "this is not an era of war". Officials added that India has been made the co-chair of the empowered working group on counter terrorism of the Asean Defence Ministers Plus forum.

MEETING WITH AUSTIN

Singh meets US def secy Austin on the sidelines of the conference; progress on bilateral ties reviewed

The minister also held bilateral meetings with his Indonesian and Vietnamese counterparts. In his meeting with the defence minister of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, Singh spoke on further strengthening bilateral military ties, particularly in the maritime domain.

During his meeting with minister of national defence of Vietnam, General Phan Van Giang, the two sides committed to work together to deepen bilateral defence ties.

Context: The Defence Minister of India recently attended the **10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting** - Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ADMM-Plus

- **About:** In 2007, during the 2nd ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in Singapore, a resolution was adopted to establish the ADMM-Plus.
- The inaugural A**DMM-Plus took place in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2010**.
- **Areas of cooperation**: Maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and military medicine.
- **Membership**: **Ten ASEAN Member States** (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia) and **8 Plus countries,** namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States.
- **9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus**: Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- **Established**: In 1967, by the Bangkok Declaration.
- **Type**: A political and economic union of 10 member statesin Southeast Asia.
- **Members**: Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
- **Objective**: It promotes inter-governmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and socio-cultural integration between its members and countries in the Asia-Pacific.
- **Secretariat**: Jakarta, Indonesia.

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PMBJP
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Government Schemes)

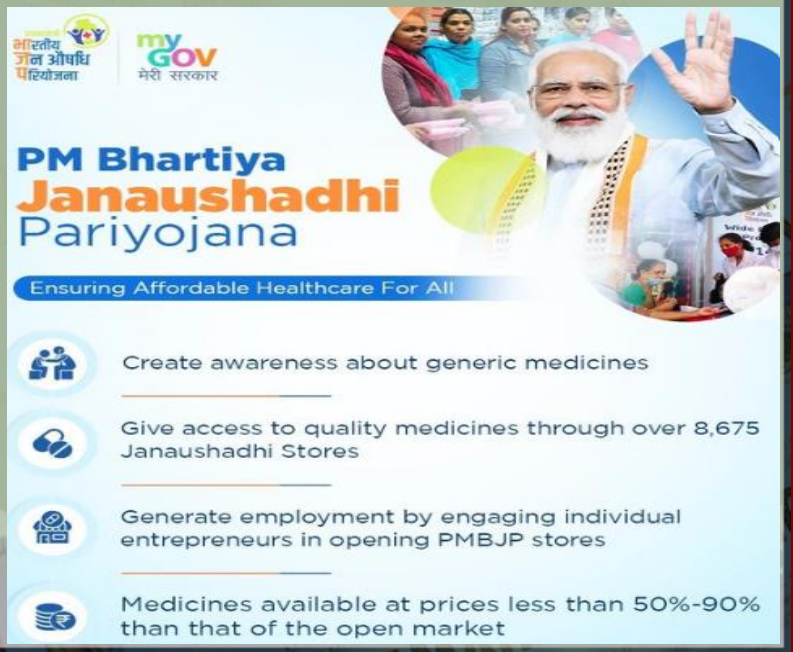
Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana participating in 42nd Indian International Trade Fair

Context: Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is participating in the 42nd Indian International Trade Fair being held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

- **Launched by**: the Department of Pharmaceuticals in collaboration with Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings.
- **Affordable Medicines**: Provides generic medicines at significantly reduced prices.
- **Objective**: To make generic medicines available to the public at significantly lower prices compared to expensive branded medicines in the open market.
- The scheme mandates the establishment of at least one Janaushadhi Store in each district across the country.

- **Salient Features of PMBJP**
- **Approval and Financial Support**: PMBJP has received approval for continuation by State Financial Corporations (SFCs) with a financial outlay of Rs. 490 crore for the period 2020-2021 to 2024-2025.
- **Goals**: The ambitious target is to open 10,500 PMBJP Kendras nationwide by March 2025.
- **Incentives for Kendra Owners**: The incentive provided to Kendra owners has been increased from the previous Rs. 2.5 lakh to up to Rs. 5 lakh.
- **Special Grants**: A special one-time grant of up to Rs. 2 lakh is available for specified categories aiming to open PMBJP Kendras.
- **Quality Assurance**: Medicines under the scheme are procured from World Health Organisation – Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers to ensure the quality of the products.

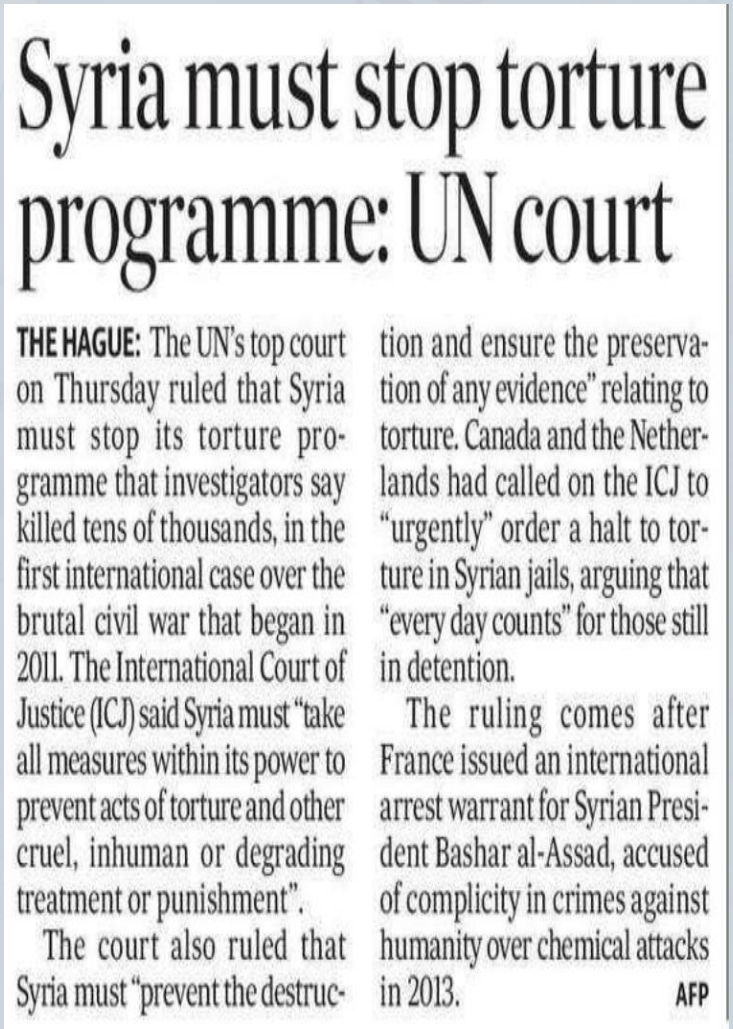


HINDUSTAN TIMES

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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – International Organization)



Syria must stop torture programme: UN court

THE HAGUE: The UN's top court on Thursday ruled that Syria must stop its torture programme that investigators say killed tens of thousands, in the first international case over the brutal civil war that began in 2011. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) said Syria must "take all measures within its power to prevent acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

The court also ruled that Syria must "prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of any evidence" relating to torture. Canada and the Netherlands had called on the ICJ to "urgently" order a halt to torture in Syrian jails, arguing that "every day counts" for those still in detention.

The ruling comes after France issued an international arrest warrant for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, accused of complicity in crimes against humanity over chemical attacks in 2013. AFP

Context: The **UN's top court recently ruled that Syria must halt its torture program**, a decision addressing the first international case related to the brutal civil war that commenced in 2011, causing widespread human rights abuses.

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- **Established**: In 1945 under the UN Charter.
- **Headquarters**: Hague, Netherlands.
- **Function**: To settle legal disputes between states and to provide advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by UN bodies and specialized agencies. Every year the Court submits a report on its activities to the United Nations General Assembly.
- **Composition**: The Court is composed of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council (UNSC).
- **Functions:**
    - It **provides advisory opinions on legal questions** referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies (advisory proceedings).
    - **Parties to contentious cases are limited to States** that are both members of the United Nations and have become parties to the Statute of the Court, or those that have accepted its jurisdiction under specific conditions.
    - ICJ discharges its **duties as a full court but, at the request of the parties**, it may also establish ad hoc chambers to examine specific cases.

Indian Judges at the ICJ Judge

- **Dalveer Bhandari**: Member of the Court since 27 April 2012
- **Raghunandan Swarup Pathak**: 1989-1991
- **Nagendra Singh**: 1973-1988 Sir Benegal Rau: 1952-1953

LIVEMINT

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WINDFALL TAX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)



Windfall tax on domestic crude oil sales, diesel exports slashed

The windfall tax on petrol and aviation turbine fuel remained unchanged at zero

Rituraj Baruah
rituraj.baruajh@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The Union finance ministry on Thursday lowered the windfall tax on the sale of domestic crude oil to ₹6,300 per tonne, according to an official notification. For the past two weeks, the levy stood at ₹9,800 per tonne. The revised tax comes into effect from Thursday.

The ministry has also decided to reduce the special additional excise duty on the export of diesel to ₹1 per litre from ₹2 per litre. The windfall tax on petrol and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) remained unchanged at zero.

The reduction on the levy comes in the backdrop of ease in crude prices in the past couple of weeks amid persistent concerns of lower global demand. Brent prices have dropped from around $85 per barrel a fortnight ago to $80 now.

Rahul Kalantri, vice president, commodities at Mehta Equities, noted that the decline in crude prices followed the US Energy Information Administration's report, revealing a surge in US crude oil inventories by 3.6 million barrels for the week ending on 10 November, surpassing the anticipated build of 1.8 million barrels. "This downturn was exacerbated by concerns over demand from the European Union. Nevertheless, the positive performance of Chinese industrial production and retail sales data provided some support to crude oil prices. Additionally, the upward revisions in demand forecasts for 2023 by OPEC+ and the IEA further bolstered crude oil prices at lower levels," he said.

The India crude basket stood at $83.09 per barrel as on 15 November. For this month, it has averaged at $84.78, down from $90.08 last month

The India crude basket stood at $83.09 per barrel as on 15 November. For this month, it has averaged at $84.78 a barrel, down from $90.08 last month.

The centre first imposed the windfall taxes on the sale of locally produced crude oil with effect from 1 July, 2022 as oil exploration and producing companies made heavy profits amid multi-year high crude oil prices post Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Further, the additional levy on the export of petrol, diesel and jet fuels came in as private refiners were largely selling abroad amid better international prices, instead of the domestic market.

The additional levies are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

Context: The **government of India recently announced** a reduction in the **windfall profit tax** on domestically produced crude oil and diesel exports, aligning with the downward trend in global oil prices.

Windfall Tax

- **About**: The **purpose of a windfall tax is to impose additional taxes** on a company's profits generated from an external event, often unexpected, such as the increase in energy prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- According to the United States Congressional Research Service, **a windfall is defined as an increase in income that is neither earned nor anticipated**, and it does not result from any extra effort or expenses on the part of the entity.
- These **profits cannot be attributed to the company's intentional actions**, such as an investment strategy or business expansion.
- Governments typically **impose a retroactive one-time tax, known as a windfall tax**, on such profits, in addition to the regular tax rates.

The Reason for Implementing a Windfall Tax

- It is introduced to finance social welfare initiatives.
- It serves as an additional source of income for the government.
- It functions as a means for the central authority to reduce the nation's expanded trade deficit.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

FOOD INFLATION IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Food inflation sole threat to 4% CPI target: RBI report

We are not out of woods yet...miles to go, says State of the Economy report

ANJALI KUMARI
Mumbai, 16 November

Rising food prices pose the sole threat to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) commitment to align headline inflation with the 4 per cent target, according to the central bank's State of the Economy report.

The report said the central bank was preparing for an anticipated uptick in inflation readings for November and December. The firming up of several constituent prices has the potential to disrupt the progress achieved in the past two months, it further said.

"Clearly, the only risk to the RBI's resolve to align headline inflation with the target of 4 per cent is food inflation. Several constituent prices are already firming up — onions; tomatoes; cereals; pulses; and sugar — with the potential to disrupt the gains made in the last two months. Accordingly, in the RBI, we are bracing up for upticks in the readings for November and December," the report said. The report authored by RBI staffers including deputy governor M.D. Patra, does not represent the views of the central bank.

India's consumer price index (CPI) inflation rate fell to 4.87 per cent in October, marking the lowest figure since June, compared to the 5.02 per cent reported in September. Despite this overall decline, the food price index exhibited a sequential increase in October, breaking a two-month downward trend. Notably, within the food category, the vegetable price index saw a rise of 3.4 per cent month-on-month, primarily driven by a 15.5 per cent sequential surge in onion prices.



CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC

- RBI bracing for an uptick in inflation readings in November and December
- Disinflationary monetary policy steadily mitigating underlying inflationary pressures
- GDP growth expected to surpass the central bank's projected rate of 6.5% in Q2
- GDP sequentially expected to be higher in Q3
- Slow but steady disinflationary trend unfolding globally

Food items' weighting is approximately 40 per cent in the CPI basket. Vegetables, constituting 13.2 per cent of the CPI-food and beverages basket, have historically played a significant role in driving food inflation. They have been major drivers of both price increases and subsequent moderation in food prices.

The headline inflation rate had risen to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July due to a surge in retail prices of vegetables, particularly tomatoes.

According to the report, disinflationary monetary policy is working its way through the economy, steadily mitigating underlying inflationary pressures. The report highlighted the consumer inflation rate fell to its lowest level in three months. Notably, the core inflation rate fell by close to 200 basis points to a 43-month low from its recent peak in January 2023. Despite these strides, the report emphasised that "we are not out of the woods yet and have miles to go".

"Disinflationary monetary policy is working its way through the economy, steadily excoriating underlying inflationary pressures," the report said.

Meanwhile, the report said a prevailing consensus, substantiated by current estimates, indicated real GDP growth was poised to surpass the central bank's projected rate of 6.5 per cent for the second quarter. This optimistic outlook finds validation in the robust and widespread bottom line growth evident in corporate results for the second quarter, the report said. Notably, sectors like oil and gas, automobiles, and construction have shown substantial increases in profitability.

"In India, the momentum of the change in GDP is sequentially expected to be higher in Q3:2023-24, with festival demand remaining ebullient," the report said. On the global front, the report said a slow but steady disinflationary trend was unfolding despite headline inflation persisting above target levels in many economies, highlighting that CPI inflation in the US eased to 3.2 per cent year-on-year in October, down from 3.7 per cent in September.

Context: The **Reserve Bank of India's commitment to align headline inflation** with the 4 per cent target faces a potential **challenge as rising food prices have been identified** as the sole threat, as **highlighted in the central bank's** recently released **'State of the Economy'** report.

Key Highlights of the Report

- **Food items' weighting is approximately 40%** in the CPI basket. Vegetables, constituting 13.2% of the CPI-food and beverages basket, have historically played a significant role in driving food inflation.
- **According to the report**, disinflationary monetary policy is working its way through the economy, steadily mitigating underlying inflationary pressures.
- The **report highlighted the consumer inflation rate** fell to its lowest level in three months.
- The **report highlighted** an escalation in global risks due to the emergence of a new **conflict in West Asia, alongside the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war**.

Measuring Food Inflation in India

- **Price Indices**: Each price index serves a distinct purpose and can be calculated based on producer, consumer, or wholesale prices.
- **Product Price Index (PPI)**: It assesses the average selling prices of domestic producers for both goods and services, providing a perspective from the producer's point of view.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**: In contrast to the PPI, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average prices from the consumer's standpoint, accounting for variations between seller and consumer prices.
- **Factors Influencing Price Discrepancies**: Seller and consumer prices can differ due to various factors, including taxes, subsidies, and market costs, highlighting the complexities in aligning producer and consumer perspectives within inflation measurements.
- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**: WPI is designed to ideally gauge average wholesale market prices, specifically in bulk transactions, providing insights into the broader market dynamics where goods are sold in larger quantities.

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NIRBHAY MISSILE

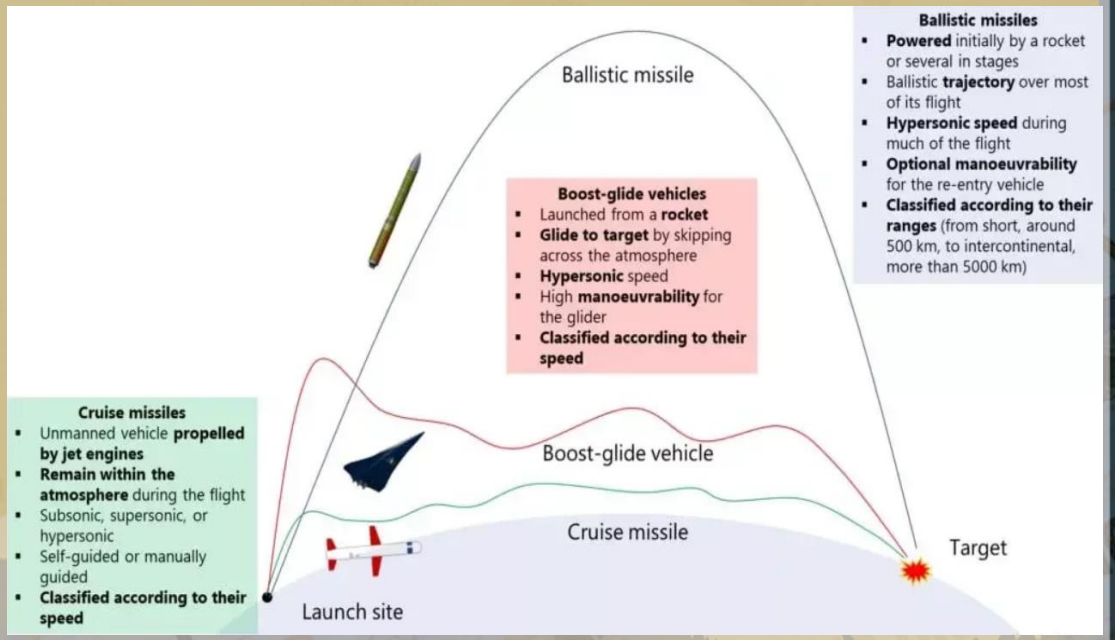
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Armed forces to have long, intermediate-range missiles in its inventory: Sources

Context: The **Indian armed forces will be inducting the long-range attack** cruise **missile Nirbhay into their inventory** to strike targets at ranges over 1,000 Km, highly placed.

Nirbhay Cruise Missile

- **About**: Nirbhay stands out as a long-range subsonic cruise missile, showcasing the ability to penetrate deep into enemy territory while ensuring precision in striking high-value targets.
- **Developed by**: Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment, a lab under India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Indigenous Production**: It represents the country's first indigenously produced cruise missile, highlighting advancements in indigenous defense technology.
- **Dimensions**: The Nirbhay missile measures 6.0 m in length. It has a body diameter of 0.5 m.
- **Weight Ranges**: from 1,500 to 1,600 kg.
- **Capability**: The missile can effectively strike land targets located up to 1,000 kilometers away.
- **Propulsion System**: It utilizes a solid propellant booster motor during the initial launch phase.
- **Warhead Options**: The missile can be armed with a warhead weighing between 200 and 300 kilograms.
- It has the capability to carry both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- **Launch Flexibility**: The Nirbhay missile is designed to be launched from multiple platforms, providing operational versatility.
- **Guidance System**: The missile is guided by an INS/GPS system.



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