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THE HINDU

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DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Science Reporter

विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
सत्यमेव जयते

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DEMONETISATION
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Economy)

SC majority ruling finds no flaw in 2016 demonetisation process

The sole woman judge on the five-member Bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, disagrees with the majority, saying the Union government's notification issued under the Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act was unlawful

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A majority of four judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday found no flaw in the Union government's process to demonetise ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes through a Gazette notification issued on November 8, 2016.

The sole woman judge on the five-member Bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, however, disagreed with the majority, saying the government's notification issued under Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act was unlawful.

Justice B.R. Gavai, delivering the judgment for the majority, which included Justices S. Abdul Nazeer, A.S. Bopanna, and V. Ramasubramanian, pronounced that the statutory procedure under Section 26(2) was not violated merely because the Centre had taken the initiative to "advise" the Central Board to consider recommending demonetisation.

Differing, Justice Nagarathna said the Centre could have issued a notification under Section 26(2) only if the Central Board of the RBI had initiated the proposal to demonetise a specified series of banknotes by way of a recommendation. Here, in 2016, the government had initiated the demonetisation, not the Central Board.

In cases in which the government initiates demonetisation, Justice Nagarathna said, it should take the opinion of the Central Board. The opinion of the Board should be "independent and frank". If the Board's opinion was in the negative, the Centre could still go forward with the demonetisation exercise, but only by promulgating an ordinance or by enacting parliamentary legislation.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Judgment notes

In a 4:1 verdict, the Supreme Court upheld the demonetisation process. A snapshot of the majority and dissenting observations



Justice B.R. Gavai (for the majority): Demonetisation notification does not suffer from any flaw in the decision-making process; satisfies the test of proportionality

- The contention that the notification is liable to be set aside on the ground that it caused hardship to individual citizens will hold no water. Individual interests must yield to the larger public interest sought to be achieved



Justice B.V. Nagarathna (dissenting): The RBI Act does not envisage initiation of demonetisation of bank notes by the Centre. Sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the Act, contemplates demonetisation of bank notes at the instance of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India

'RBI had seen note ban as an opportunity'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The majority judgment of the Supreme Court on Monday details extensively the documents placed on record by the government to conclude that the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was very much in the loop before recommending demonetisation. The Central Board had found the proposal as an opportunity to further financial inclusion, the court said.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 11

Context: A majority of four judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court found **no flaw in the government's process to demonetise** ₹500 and ₹1000 banknotes through a gazette notification issued on November 8, 2016.

- The sole woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, on the five-member Bench however **disagreed with the majority**, saying the government's notification issued under **Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act** was unlawful.

Demonetisation

- **Definition**: Demonetisation is an **act of withdrawing the status of currency as legal tender.**
  - Under this act, **current form or forms of money is pulled from circulation** and are replaced with new notes or coins.
  - **Legal tender** is a form of money that is **backed by the government** (mostly by central banks) and **cannot be refused by any citizen of the country** for settlement of any kind of transactions
- **Legal aspects: Section 26(2) of the RBI Act 1934** empowers the government to demonetise, that is, to declare any series of notes as illegal tender.
  - But neither the RBI Act, nor the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, empower the government to impose restrictions on cash withdrawals or deposits.
  - RBI does not have any independent power under the Specified **Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act of 2017** to accept the demonetised notes.
- **Objectives**:
  - **Discouraging the use of high-denomination notes** for illegal transactions.
  - It **curbs the use of black money.**
  - **Encouraging digitisation** of commercial transactions and formalising the economy.

THE HINDU Page 3

KOTIA TERRITORY DISPUTE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Odisha to fly officers to disputed Kotia region for reviewing projects

The State and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh have been involved in a five-decade-long fight over administrative control of the gram panchayat in Koraput district and even approached the SC

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Naveen Patnaik government has mooted a proposal allowing officers above Joint Secretary rank to fly to Kotia, a territory claimed by both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, in order to review progress on development activities.

The General Administration Department has been asked to initiate measures to enable flights to the area comprising 22 revenue villages and seven hamlets which are about 550 km from the capital Bhubaneswar.

Infrastructure vs dole

With both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh claiming their jurisdictional authority over villages under Kotia gram panchayat in Koraput district, the Patnaik government has announced a special package to ensure that the border villages, located in hilly terrain, are connected with all-weather roads and bridges and have schools, hospitals, banks and police stations.



The Odisha government's development push in the area is visible – all villages of Kotia are connected by roads. BISWARANJAN ROUT

While Odisha is focusing on massive infrastructure development, welfare schemes and education, neighbouring Andhra Pradesh is reaching out to the villages by giving monetary allowances under old age pension, scholarships for students and health benefits.

The territorial dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh is over five decades old. The two States have challenged each other's administrative control over Kotia in Supreme Court, which ordered status quo first in 1968 and again in 2006.

In 2021, Andhra Pradesh had set up voting booths in Kotia villages and held direct panchayat elections in some villages. A year later in 2022, Odisha held elections to three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions.

The region, situated in the southern part of Odisha, recently got air connectivity with regular flights between Bhubaneswar and Jeypore. Besides, a helipad has been established at Kotia.

The Odisha government's development push in the area populated by over 4,000 people is visible - all villages of Kotia are connected by roads while there are 15 primary schools, three upper primary schools and two other schools under the aegis of the ST & ST Development Department. The government has proposed additional roads and bridges at an estimated cost of ₹26.26 crore. A passenger bus plies between the Kotia villages and Semilguda, a major town of Koraput district.

Of the 1,740 job card holders under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 1,237 have got work. As many as 293 households got 100 days employment in the current fiscal. No other gram panchayat in Odisha has received as much attention as Kotia.

Context: The Odisha government has mooted a proposal allowing officers above joint secretaries to reach **Kotia, a territory claimed by both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**, using flight service to review the progress on developmental activities.

Kotia Territory Dispute

- **About**: Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are locked in a **territorial dispute over Kotia gram panchayat** since 1960.
  - Disputes pertain over **21 villages in Kotia gram panchayat.**
- **Background**: Prior to April 1, 1936, villages under **Kotia panchayat were part of Jeypore Estate.**
  - In the Constitution of Orissa Order, 1936, published in the Gazette of India, the Government of India demarcated Odisha from the erstwhile **Madras Presidency (that included present day Andhra Pradesh).**
  - In 1942, the Madras government contested the boundary and **ordered re-demarcation of the two states.**
  - In a **joint survey of Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh**, seven villages of Kotia gram panchayat were recorded as revenue villages and revenue was collected by the Odisha government, but the exercise left out the 21 villages now under dispute.
  - When the state of Andhra Pradesh was created in 1955, the **villages were not surveyed by the Andhra Pradesh government.**
- **Current Status**: In the early 1980s, Odisha filed a case in the **Supreme Court demanding right and possession** of jurisdiction over the 21 villages.
  - In 2006, the court ruled that since disputes belonging to the state boundaries are not within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the **matter can only be resolved by Parliament** and passed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.
  - In 2021, **Andhra Pradesh held panchayat elections** in three villages in the Kotia cluster, which is at the centre of a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
    - A day after Andhra notified the panchayat elections here, Odisha Chief Minister inaugurated projects worth Rs 18 crore.
    - The **Odisha government moved the Supreme Court** challenging the conduct of elections by AP government.
  - **Residents of Kotia panchayat receive benefits from both** Pottangi block in Koraput and Salur in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh.
    - They depend on both the blocks for their day to day activities.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 6

CORE AND NON-CORE ASSETS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Shipping Corp demerger set to get approval

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 2 January

SHIPPING OUT

Proposal includes hiving off Shipping House, a training institute, and other non-core assets

Transferring ₹1,000 crore from the firm's surplus cash to the non-core firms spun off from the listed business

DIPAM in December 2020 invited EoIs for disinvestment of the government's entire stake of 63.75%

Plan got delayed following the demerger involving splitting of the core and non-core assets



The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has concluded its final hearing on the proposed demerger of the core and non-core assets of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).

Sources indicate that the ministry is likely to give its nod to the demerger plan, which could pave the way for the Centre to disinvest its stake in the national carrier. However, the order is awaiting.

"The matter was with MCA for sanction of the scheme of arrangement for the demerger of SCI. We heard and concluded the hearing last Thursday. The order however would yet to be pronounced," said a government official privy to the development.

As part of the strategic sale process, the government had proposed hiving off Shipping House, a training institute and some other non-core assets of SCI.

Under the revised demerger scheme, it has proposed transferring ₹1,000 crore from the firm's surplus cash to the non-core firms spun off from the listed business. The original demerger scheme involved transfer of Rs 450 crore to the non-core firm, Shipping Corporation of India Land and Assets Ltd (SCILAL).

MCA was tasked to vet the revised demerger plan. After the MCA signs off on the revised scheme, it will be filed with the Registrar of Companies to make it effective.

"The ministry had examined in detail the responses and objections received, and whether SCI would be able to liquidate the liability following the transfer of ₹1,000 crore surplus cash to its non-core company," the official cited above said.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) had, in December 2020, invited expressions of interest (EoIs) for strategic disinvestment of the government's entire stake of 63.75 per cent in SCI, along with the transfer of management.

However, the stake sale plan was delayed following the demerger scheme involving splitting of the firm's core and non-core assets.

The ministry had, in April 2022, directed SCI to expedite the process of demerger of its non-core assets to SCILAL and also requested the board to review the demerger scheme for hiving off the non-core assets, including Shipping House, Mumbai and Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Powai.

In 2021, the government had received multiple bids for the privatisation of Shipping Corporation of India.

Context: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has concluded its final hearing on the proposed demerger of the **core and non-core assets of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).**

Core and Non-core assets

- **Core assets**: Assets that are **critical to a company and its business operations**.
  - Core business assets are **needed for the company to generate revenue** and remain profitable.
  - Core assets can include **equipment, machinery, factories, and distribution channels**, such as vehicles.
  - Core assets can also include a trademark or a patent.
- **Non-core assets (sometimes known as non-operating assets)**: Assets that are **not critical to the production of a company's goods**, nor are they critical to generating revenue. Non-core assets are often sold when a company needs to raise cash.
  - Non-core assets can include **Real estate, Commodities, Idle equipment, Natural resources, Investment securities and Land** that's not being used.

Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)

- **About**: A government corporation that **operates and manages vessels** servicing both national and international lines.
- **Origin**: It was established on 2 October 1961 by the amalgamation of E**astern Shipping Corporation and Western Shipping Corporation**.
  - Two more shipping companies, Jayanti Shipping Company and Mogul Lines Limited, were merged with SCI in 1973 and 1986 respectively.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It is under the ownership of **Ministry of Shipping,** Government of India.
- **Headquarters**: Mumbai.
- **Key Services:** Cruise liner and Passenger services; Bulk carrier and tanker services and, Offshore services.
- **Key developments**: On 21 November 2019, the Government of India approved the **privatisation of SCI.**
  - In 2022, the privatisation was **delayed by the Russo-Ukraine war.**

INDIAN EXPRESS

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DRAFT RULES FOR ONLINE GAMING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Cyber Security)

Govt proposes to ban online betting ads on social media platforms

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 2

ONLINE BETTING UNDER REGULATION

- Social media platforms will have to seek verification from a proposed self-regulatory body about whether an online gaming company has been registered with it, before hosting its advertisements

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has proposed to ban advertisements of online betting sites on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, as per draft rules for online gaming released Monday. *The Indian Express* was the first to report, in October, on how these social media platforms were rife with such advertisements and that the government could soon intervene to curb them.

According to the draft rules, social media platforms must seek verification from a proposed self-regulatory body about whether an online gaming company has been registered with it before hosting its advertisements. The self-regulatory body, in turn, can only register those online games that do not allow wagering based on the outcome of an event, that is, betting platforms.

This means intermediaries like Instagram and YouTube will not be allowed to host advertisements on platforms that offer online betting under the proposed rules. Social media platforms must also display that a certain online game has been registered with the self-regulatory body.

In October, after analysing hundreds of betting ads on social media platforms, this paper reported that accounts promoting online betting platforms were found to be occurring fairly frequently on both Instagram and Facebook – on the main home feed and in between stories that users upload, around every second or third advertisement was about an online betting platform. On YouTube, while such ads were not visible on the main home page, they appeared when searches specific to online betting were made.

When this paper had reached out to MeitY for comment on the story, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar had said that the government was "concerned" by such ads. "I am very concerned that many social media and digital platforms are advertising these illegal online betting sites. We are focusing on taking steps on that," Chandrasekhar had told *The Indian Express* in October.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Context: A self-regulatory body, **grievance redressal mechanism and mandatory know-your-customer norms** for verification are among the key proposals in the draft rules for online gaming, released by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).

- The proposed rules, aimed at **safeguarding users against potential harm from skill-based games**, have been introduced as an amendment to the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.**

Highlights of the draft rules for online gaming

- **Self-regulatory body**: Online games will have to **register with a self-regulatory body,** and only games that are cleared by the body will be allowed to legally operate in India.
  - Online gaming companies will **not be allowed to engage in betting** on the outcome of games.
  - The self-regulatory body will h**ave a board of directors** with five members from diverse fields including online gaming, public policy, IT, psychology and medicine.
  - It must ensure that the **registered games don't have anything** "which is not in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order, or incites the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the aforesaid".
  - There **could be more than one self-regulatory body** and all of them will have to inform the Centre about the online games they have registered, along with a report detailing the criteria for registering a certain game.
- **KYC norms:** Like an intermediary, online gaming firms will be **required to undertake additional due diligence**, including KYC of users, transparent withdrawal and refund of money, and a fair distribution of winnings.
  - For KYC, they will have to follow norms that are laid down for entities **regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- **Certificates required**: Gaming companies will also have to **secure a random number generation certificate**, which is typically used by platforms that offer card games to ensure that game outputs are statistically random and unpredictable.
  - They will also have to get a **"no bot certificate" from a reputed certifying body.**
- **Compliance officer**: Similar to social media and e-commerce companies, online gaming platforms will also have to **appoint a compliance officer** who will ensure that the platform is following the norms, a nodal officer who will act as a liaison official with the government and assist law enforcement agencies, and a grievance officer who will resolve user complaints.

LIVEMINT Page 13

NEEV FUND
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

SME fund Neev II to complete ₹2,000 cr fundraising by June

Beena Parmar
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BENGALURU


Akshay Panth, CIO, Neev Funds.

Neev II, a government-backed climate and sustainability-focused SME (small and medium enterprise) fund, is set to reach its final fundraising goal of as much as ₹2,000 crore by June, its top executive said.

"We are targeting between ₹1,750 and ₹2,000 crore to be closed in the next six months...through June. That's where we will likely end Neev II. We started deploying from that and have deployed about a quarter of the fund already," Akshay Panth, chief investment of Neev Funds, said in an interview.

Launched in May 2021, the fund raised around ₹ 1,000 crore of the targeted ₹2,000 crore. In March, VCCircle reported that the fund had received commitments of around ₹1,500 crore to invest in climate action, sustainability, and social impact businesses.

Neev II (SVL-SME fund) is in early-stage of discussions with multilateral and a couple of institutional investors. So far, its commitments have come from global and domestic investors, including the European Investment Bank (EIB), Japan's International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), SRI Fund and the State Bank of India.

Neev funds are run and managed by SBICap Ventures Ltd, a unit of SBI Capital Markets Ltd. The fund is also backed by the UK government.

So far, it has deployed capital in four startups, namely, GPS Renewables, emission-control device manufacturing company Chakr Innovation, Blue Planet, and Hygenco Green Energies, which was its most recent investment in October.

Neev II's investment theme is going to be around sustainable agriculture, waste management, water, circular economy, electric mobility and electric vehicles or EVs at its core.

"We have a very strong pipeline of around $300 million across 20 firms over a five-year period which we are sifting through to figure out what and where we to invest...in strategies of climate adaptation and climate mitigation. Those are the two buckets," Panth said.

Context: **Neev II, a government-backed climate and sustainability-focused SME** (small and medium enterprise) fund, is set to reach its final fundraising goal of as much as ₹2,000 crore by June.

Neev Fund

- **About**: Neev fund is an **Infrastructure private equity fund** focused on creating sustainable development.
  - Neev Fund is the **outcome of a partnership between State Bank of India and UK's Department for International Development (DFID).**
- **Origin**: Neev Fund has been established as a contributory trust in 2014, by its settlor (i.e. SBICAP Ventures Limited) and its trustee (i.e. SBICAP Trustee Company Limited).
- **Nodal Authority:** The Fund is registered with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI")** as a Category I Alternative Investment Fund – Infrastructure Fund ("Category I Infra AIF") under the provisions of the SEBI (Alternative Investment Fund) Regulations, 2012 ("AIF Regulations").
  - **Category I AIFs** are funds with strategies to invest in start-up or early stage ventures or social ventures or SMEs or infrastructure or other sectors or areas which the government or regulators consider as socially or economically desirable.
  - **AIF** refers to any **privately pooled investment fund**, (whether from Indian or foreign sources), in the form of a trust or a company or a body corporate or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).
- **Sponsor and investment manager of the Fund**: **SBICAP Ventures Limited** ("Client" or "Investment Manager").
  - The Fund has **raised capital commitments from State Bank of India** ("SBI"), the Department of International Development and United Kingdom ("DFID") and Small industrial Development Bank of India ("SIDBI") as the contributors of the Fund and from SBICAP Ventures Limited as its Sponsor.
- **Primary objective:** To **create sustainable development** which will provide economic, social and/or environmental benefits to the poor in some of the poorest regions of India through market returns on capital investments by carrying out the activity of a Category I Infra AIF, as permissible under the AIF Regulations.
- **Fund's mandate**: To **invest in eight low income/developing states** in India (viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) with a focus on infrastructure sub-sectors such as renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, hydro, biomass energy, etc.), agricultural supply chain (e.g. warehouses, cold storages etc.), healthcare, education, urban infrastructure (e.g. water and sanitation, solid waste management etc.), and roads.
- **Principle of "double bottom line"**: The Fund works on the principle of "double bottom line" proposing to r**aise resources to make available capital assistance to portfolio entities,** so as to achieve long-term capital appreciation while promoting developmental objectives.

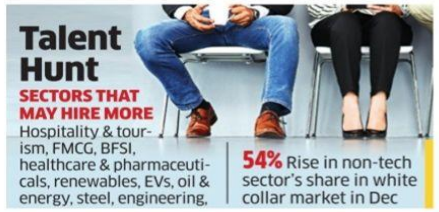
ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 11

DIFFERENT COLLAR JOBS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Non-IT Sectors may Dominate White-Collar Job Market this Year



Rica Bhattacharyya & Sreeradha D Basu

Mumbai | Bengaluru: India's white-collar job market may see a cautious stance from companies in the New Year, as recession fears mount in the advanced economies amid continued geopolitical uncertainties, accelerating inflation and sluggish growth.

The current moderation and caution in jobs in the information technology (IT) sector, which has for years been the dominant recruiter in the white-collar job market, will likely continue in 2023, as long as the global demand remains impacted, said top company executives.

However, the hiring action is likely to remain positive in certain sectors in the non-tech cohort that is benefitting from a revival in domestic consumption post-pandemic as well as favourable government policies, said experts.

Sectors such as hospitality and tourism, fast moving consumer goods, healthcare & pharmaceuticals, renewables, automobile companies with presence in electric vehicles, oil & energy, infrastructure-related sectors, such as steel and engineering, and chemicals are likely to drive the white-collar employment space, said experts.

The non-tech sector has come to the rescue of the white-collar job market over the last eight months, says staffing firm Xpheno

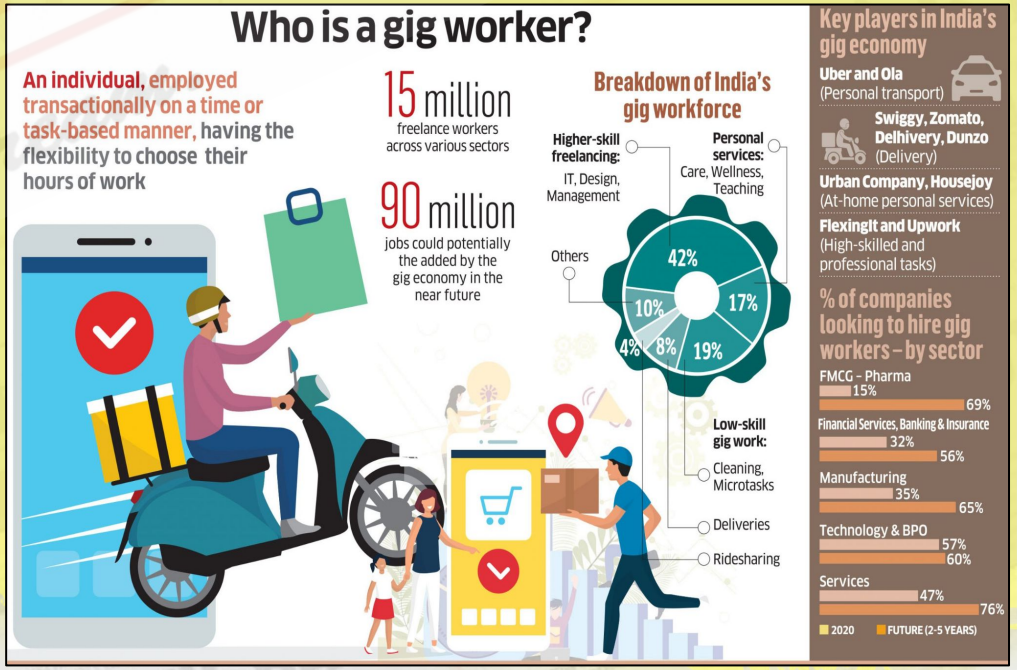
Companies will also keep a close watch on the Covid situation amid a surge in infections in some countries, said executives.

"Every uncertainty makes people cautious, but it will vary from sector to sector. People will be careful with their investments and any sector that is linked to global demand — such as IT services, outsourcing — will continue to see moderation," said Santrupt Misra, director, group human resources, Aditya Birla Group.

Context: India's **white-collar job market** may see a cautious stance from companies in the New Year, as recession fears mount in the advanced economies amid continued geopolitical uncertainties, accelerating inflation and sluggish growth.

Different Collar Jobs

- **Blue-Collar Worker:** It is a member of the working class, who **performs manual labour and earns an hourly wage.**
- **White-Collar Worker**: It is a **salaried professiona**l, typically referring to general office workers and management.
- **Gold-Collar Worker:** It is used to refer to **highly-skilled knowledge people** who are highly valuable to the company. Example: Lawyers, doctors, research scientists, etc.
- **Grey-Collar Worker**: It refers to the **balance of employed people not classified as white or blue-collar.**
  - Although grey-collar is something used to describe those who work beyond the age of retirement. Example: Firefighters, police officers, health care professionals, Security Guards, etc.
- **Green-Collar Worker**: It is a worker who is employed in the **environmental sectors** of the economy.
  - Example: People working in alternative energy sources like solar panels, Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for nature, etc.
- **Pink-Collar Worker**: It is employed in a job that is **traditionally considered to be women's work** and is often low-paid.
- **Scarlet-Collar Worker**: It is a term often used to refer to people who **work in the pornography industry,** especially women entrepreneurs in the field of internet pornography.
- **Red-Collar Worker: Government workers** of all types.
- **Open-Collar Worker:** It is a worker who **works from home,** especially via the internet.



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 6

POLICE CUSTODY AND JUDICIAL CUSTODY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Judicial custody of four extended in excise 'scam'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday extended the judicial custody of businessmen Sharath Reddy, Binoy Babu, Vijay Nair and Abhishek Boinpally till January 7 in connection with the alleged Delhi Excise Policy scam.

The court of Special Judge MK Nagpal noted the submissions of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) that the agency is in process of filing supplementary chargesheet against all the arrested accused till January 5.

The court, while extending the judicial custody, noted that the bail petitions of all these accused is pending for arguments on different dates.

The court is presently examining five bail petitions moved by accused Sharath Reddy, Sameer Mahendru, Binoy Babu, Abhishek Boinpally and Vijay Nair.

Special Public Prosecutor, appearing for the ED, submitted before the court that the next chargesheet would be common against all the arrested accused in connection with the alleged scam.

In November 2022, the ED had filed its first chargesheet in the money laundering case related to the excise policy.

The chargesheet was filed against businessman Sameer Mahendru as 60 days mandatory period was getting over. The ED made first arrest of Mahendru on September 27 in this case.

Context: A Delhi court extended the judicial custody of businessmen till January 7 in connection with the alleged Delhi Excise Policy scam.

Police Custody And Judicial Custody

- **Police custody or remand**: It means that the **physical custody of the accused** is with the Police, and the accused is lodged in a lock-up of a police station.
  - After an FIR is lodged for a cognizable offense (which provides a punishment of more than three years), the accused is **arrested by the police to prevent the tampering of evidence** or influencing the witnesses.
- **Judicial custody or remand**: It is there in case of serious offenses, where the Court may accede to the request of the police to **remand the accused in judicial custody** after the police custody period expires, that is to prevent the tampering of evidence or witnesses.
- **Key Differences**
  - Police custody means that the **accused stays in the lock-up of a police station** or in the custody of an investigating agency that is probing the concerned matter, whereas judicial custody means that the **accused is lodged up in jail and is under the custody of the Magistrate**.
  - In Police custody, a person lodged in police custody **has to appear within 24 hours before the concerned Magistrate,** whereas in judicial custody the **person is kept in jail until there is an order** from the Court for bail.
  - Police custody **begins as soon as the suspect is arrested by a police officer** after receiving a complaint or filing an FIR, whereas, judicial custody **begins after the public prosecutor satisfies** the court that the custody of the accused is necessary for the investigation purpose.
  - In police custody, the **time period is 24 hours which can be extended to a period of 15 days** as a whole by the appropriate Magistrate, whereas in Judicial Custody the **maximum time period for detention is 90 days**, in the cases where the investigation is related to offenses punishable with life imprisonment, death or imprisonment for a term of not less than ten years and detention is 60 days for crimes where the imprisonment is for less than ten years.

PIB

Jan 3

SMART PROGRAM FOR AYURVEDA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

‘SMART’ program for Ayurveda professionals to boost R&D in Ayurveda in the country

Context: The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) have launched **‘SMART’ (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) program** aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

- NCISM and CCRAS are the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively.

Key Points

- The proposed initiative is c**onceptualised with an objective to identify, support and promote innovative research ideas** in healthcare research areas including Osteoarthritis, Iron Deficiency Anaemia, Chronic Bronchitis, Dyslipidemia, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Obesity, Diabetes Mellitus, Psoriasis, Generalised Anxiety Disorder, Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)

- **About**: A **Statutory and regulatory body** formed by Government of India for framing policies for institutions engaged in Indian System of Medicine and medical professionals.
- **Origin**: It was formed in 2020 by the Government of India as statutory body by passing the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) Bill.**
  - It was set up according to the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2021**, which will govern the Board of Ayurveda and Unani and the Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowarigpa.
- **Composition**: Made up of **29 members appointed by the Central Government.**
  - The organisation has two boards, one for assessing and granting educational institution permission for Indian Systems of Medicine, and the other for ethics and registration of practitioners of Indian systems of medicine.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:**
  - **Frame policies for Institutions** engaged in Indian System of Medicine and regulation of medical professionals.
  - **Assessment of healthcare infrastructure** and related human resources.
  - **Regulations** as per bill are adhered by State Medical Councils offering courses in Indian System of Medicine.
  - **Coordination** between autonomous bodies formed under bill.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)

- **About**: CCRAS is an apex body in India for the **formulation, coordination, development, and promotion of research on scientific lines** in the Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa systems of medicine.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) is an **autonomous body of the Ministry of AYUSH.**
  - CCRAS is the **largest Research Council** under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India.
- **eOffice Program**: CCRAS has launched the eOffice application in its **quest for becoming a paperless organization.**
  - The eOffice platform was **developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC),** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

PIB

Jan 3

NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

PM chairs Annual General Meeting of the NMML Society

Context: Prime Minister presided over the Annual General Meeting of the **Nehru Memorial Museum & Library Society,** in his capacity as the **President of the Society.**

Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML)

- **About**: A museum and library in New Delhi, India, which **aims to preserve and reconstruct the history of the Indian independence movement.**
- **Origin**: It was **founded in 1964** after the death of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Housed within the Teen Murti House complex, it is an autonomous institution under the Indian **Ministry of Culture.**
- **Objectives**: It aims to **foster academic research on modern and contemporary history**.
- **Archives**: Today, the Nehru Memorial Library is the **world's leading resource centre** on India's first prime minister.
    - Its archives contain the bulk of **Mahatma Gandhi's writings**, as well as private papers of **Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, C. Rajagopalachari, B. C. Roy, Jayaprakash Narayan, Charan Singh, Sarojini Naidu and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.**
- **Noted publications**: Amongst noted publications of the NMML are Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru, **Man of Destiny by Ruskin Bond, and Nehru Anthology (1980).**
- **Digitization project**: In March 2010 it launched a **digitization project of its archives,** and by June 2011, 867,000 pages of manuscripts and 29,807 photographs had been scanned and 500,000 pages had been uploaded on the digital library website.
- **Key developments**: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library is now invigorated with the opening of the **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya** as its part in April 2022.
    - The **Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya is a tribute to every Prime Minister of India** since Independence, and a narrative record of how each one has contributed to the development of our nation over the last 75 years.

DTE

Jan 3

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

President Lula calls Bolsonaro's COVID-19 actions 'genocide', to reinstate Bolsa Familia

Veteran leftist leader aims for zero deforestation in the Amazon; zero greenhouse gas emissions in electricity matrix

By Rajat Ghai
Published: Monday 02 January 2023





Context: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva January 1, 2023 took oath as Brazil's president for a record third time, calling outgoing President Jair Bolsonaro's actions during the COVID-19 pandemic as 'genocide'.

Government and politics in Brazil

- The form of government is a **democratic federative republic, with a presidential system**.
- The **president is both head of state and head of government** of the Union and is elected for a four-year term, with the possibility of re-election for a second successive term.
- The **President appoints the Ministers of State**, who assist in government.
- Brazil has a **multi-party system**, with **proportional representation**.
- The country has more than **40 active political parties.**
- **Voting is compulsory** for the literate between 18 and 70 years old and optional for illiterates and those between 16 and 18 or beyond 70.

Key Facts about Brazil

- It is is the **largest country in both South America and Latin America.**
- Brazil is the **world's fifth-largest country by area** and the seventh most populous.
- It is the **largest country to have Portuguese as an official language** and the only one in the Americas.
- Bounded by the **Atlantic Ocean** on the east.
- It **borders all other countries and territories in South America except Ecuador and Chile** and covers roughly half of the continent's land area.
- It is the **largest producer of coffee** for the last 150 years
- Brazil is a **founding member of the United Nations,** the G20, BRICS, Mercosul, Organization of American States, Organization of Ibero-American States and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries.

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