theIAShub

the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

JANUARY
10

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place

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



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. K-Shaped Recovery
2. MCA21 Portal
3. Sakhalin-I Project
4. IS for Electronics
5. Presiding Officers' Conference
6. Young Professionals Scheme
7. Non-Resident Indian
8. Ozone Conservation
9. Mali Parbat Bauxite Mine
10. Land Subsidence

BUSINESS STANDARD
Page 6

K-SHAPED RECOVERY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

No K-shaped recovery, Covid a 'leveller' to reduce inequality: SBI economists

Free food distribution scheme moderated income inequality in many states, says report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, 9 January

Economists at the country's largest lender SBI on Monday dismissed the 'K-shaped recovery' critique, saying the pandemic was a 'leveller' which helped in reducing inequalities. They said government transfers to the poor alone are adding up to ₹75,000 per household per annum.

It can be noted that in the months following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, concerns were being raised about deepening inequalities in India, with some calling it as a 'K-shaped' recovery, where rich emerged richer while the poor slipped down further.

After analysing data and studies, the SBI economists said, "... in hindsight, the pandemic may have been a leveller in terms of inequality with the poor getting protected through measures such as food transfers." India has delivered a sharp recovery after the pandemic and acknowledged that critics are still quoting it as a K-shaped recovery.

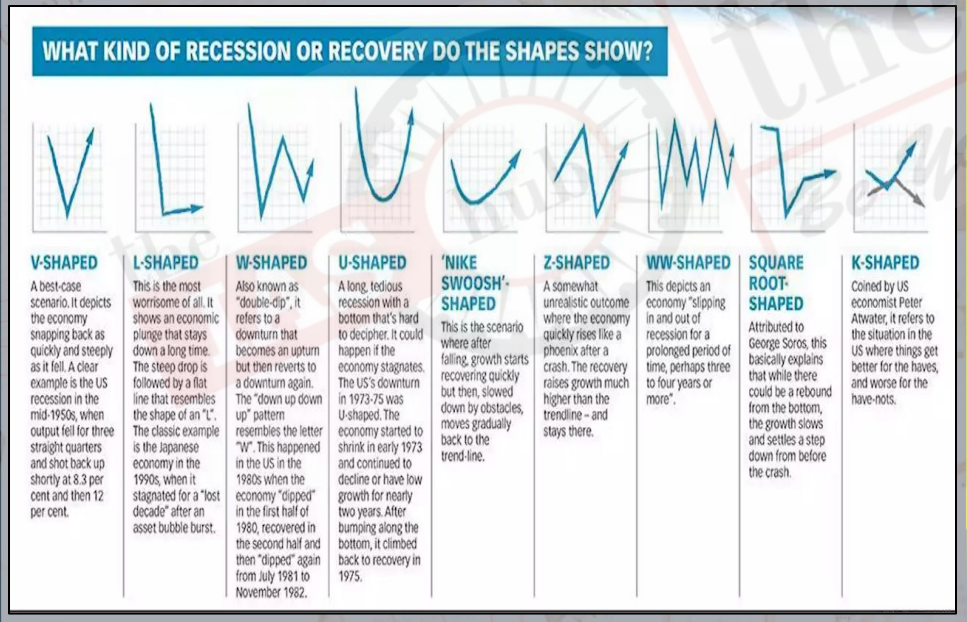
The report says India has done well during the pandemic in navigating income shocks across deciles of population

"... It is true that the strong rise in financial assets resulted in an increase in inequality in 2021. However, when correlated with short-run asset price movements, such fluctuations in inequality always prove transient," the report explained. "... In the Indian context, it is an incorrect conjecture to assume that inequality has worsened during the pandemic," it added, citing its study on how cereal procurement has helped reduce inequality.

The report said a higher procurement is benefitting the poorest of the poor in terms of subsequent free distribution of foodgrains, and also helping put money in the hands of smaller and marginal farmers, with distributional impact.

"With a progressive growth in output across states as proxied by GSDP, it is clear that the fruits of such a growth have clearly reverberated and dovetailed into an inclusive growth.

"India has thus done quite well during pandemic in terms of navigating income shocks across deciles of population."



Context: Economists at the country's largest lender SBI dismissed the ´ **K-shaped recovery**´ critique, saying the pandemic was a ´leveller´ which helped in reducing inequalities.

K-shaped Recovery

- **About**: A K-shaped recovery is one in which the **performance of different parts of the economy diverges** like the arms of the letter "K"
  - In a K-shaped recovery **some parts of the economy may see strong** growth while others continue to decline.
  - A K-shaped recovery exhibits **wealth inequality, greater corporate monopolies**, a continuing racial wealth gap, long-term unemployment for low-income workers, and accelerating technological adoption.
- **Reasons behind India's K-Shaped recovery:**
  - **Regressive taxation policy**: Government taxation policies continue to be regressive, with increased indirect taxes and lower direct taxes placing greater tax burden on the poor. While inflation increased, the incomes of the middle and lower-middle-class have remained constant.
  - **Lower Budget allocation accounts for MGNREGA tends to increase the pressure on unemployment figures**: The Government of India had cut its budget allocation towards MGNREGA by 34% for 2021-2022 when there is a greater demand now for MGNREGA jobs. Further, the lower Budget allocation accounts for the inability to compensate workers in time and fairly.
  - **Less benefits from stock markets:** The recovery in the stock market and other such financial assets over the past year benefitted only a few sections of the population.
  - **Disproportional benefit of the asset price inflation**: It favoured the upper-middle-class and this further explains the inherent K-shape of the recovery.

LIVEMINT

Page 5

MCA21 PORTAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

MCA waives late fees for 15 days as it migrates to new statutory filing system

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
gireesh.p@livemint.com



10 forms have already been uploaded on the new portal HT

The ministry of corporate affairs on Monday started moving a large part of the corporate reporting process to the revamped compliance portal, MCA21, and has given more time for businesses to file key statutory documents without additional fees.

As part of the move, 45 statutory forms will be made available on the MCA21 portal by 22 January, out of which 10 forms related to the incorporation of companies were uploaded on Monday. The updated forms have tighter security and validation features.

According to an order published on the ministry's website, all the 45 forms will not be available on the old portal till the migration is completed on 22 January. Businesses have been given 15 days extra to file applications without additional fees if their due date falls during this period.

The portal replaces the PDF format forms with web-based forms, which use IT tools for improved user experience and ensures more efficient regulatory monitoring of businesses. It allows authorities to detect financial stress, as well as governance lapses in companies at an early stage.

The ministry said the deadline will be extended by 15 days at no extra cost for entities reporting an appointment or resignation of directors, requests for director identification number, declaration in starting a business, conversion of public company to private, and vice versa, and for changes in share capital.

As part of the move, 45 statutory forms will be made available on the MCA21 portal by 22 January

The forms made available on the new system on Monday include applications for a name of a firm, change in name, and applications for incorporating a company, and request for registrations such as goods and services tax and professional tax, employees' state insurance scheme and employees' provident fund.

Experts said the present system was built on a one-factor authentication and was easy to access information. "The new system is more focused and is built with two-factor authentication, which seeks to fix the accountability of professionals and personnel involved in the incorporation as well as other filings," Amit Maheshwari, tax partner, AKM Global, a tax and consulting firm, said.

Experts welcomed the transition to a more sophisticated filing system and said initial teething issues faced by filers will be solved by relaxing the deadlines and through a real-time redressal mechanism.

Hemant Krishna, partner at Lakshmikumaran & Sridharn Attorneys, said there maybe a few initial glitches. Users may have problems with sign-ups, or abrupt time-outs, payment gateway errors and downloading forms after filling or submitting, he added. "Given how critical the forms are for 'ease of doing business', the ministry will do well to lend a keen ear to users after the forms are uploaded on the MCA21 portal so that the glitches can be remedied swiftly."

Context: The **ministry of company affair**s began transferring a big a part of the company reporting course of to the revamped compliance portal, **MCA21**, and has given extra time for companies to file key statutory paperwork without extra fees.

MCA21 Portal

- **About**: MCA21 is the **online portal of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs** (MCA) that has made all company-related information accessible to various stakeholders and the general public.
  - It was launched in 2006.
- **Key components of MCA21:**
  - **E-adjudication module:** To manage the increased volume of **adjudication proceedings** by the Registrar of Companies (RoC) and Regional Directors (RD).
  - **e-Scrutiny module:** MCA is in the process of setting up a **Central Scrutiny Cell** which will scrutinise certain Straight Through Process (STP) Forms filed by the corporates on the MCA21 registry and flag the companies for more in depth scrutiny.
  - **e-Consultation Module**: To automate and enhance the current process of **public consultation on proposed amendments** and draft rules etc.
  - **Compliance Management System (CMS):** It assists the Ministry of Corporate Affairs - MCA in **identifying non-compliant companies/LLPs,** issuing e-notices to the said defaulting companies/LLPs, generating alerts for internal users of MCA.
  - **MCA Lab**: As part of MCA21 V3, a MCA LAB is being set up, which will consist of **corporate law experts.**
- **Key developments**: In 2021, the government launched the first phase of the latest update to its digital corporate compliance portal, Ministry of Corporate Affairs **(MCA) 21 Version 3.0.**
  - MCA21 Version 3.0 is part of the **2021 Budget announcement.**
  - It will help in improving E**ase of Doing Business** in India.

SAKHALIN-I PROJECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

ONGC Part-Owned Sakhalin-1 Output to be Near Normal by Mar

Production at Russian block came to a halt last year after the exit of ExxonMobil

Our Bureau



New Delhi: Production at Russia's Sakhalin-1 block, in which ONGC has a 20% stake, will reach near normal by March after a halt for months last year following the force majeure by operator ExxonMobil, an official said.

The Sakhalin block is producing around 140,000 barrels per day of oil, which will likely rise to 200,000 barrels per day by the end of the current fiscal year, the official said. The block produced around 220,000 barrels per day of oil before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February.

In response to the war, western oil majors such as ExxonMobil, BP, Shell and Equinor decided to exit Russia. ExxonMobil, the operator with a 30% participating interest in Sakhalin-1, declared force majeure, leading to a halt of production at the block in May.

In October, Russia removed Exxon as the operator and made a newly-formed Russian entity the new operator of the block. The existing stakeholders in the Sakhalin-1 were assigned a proportionate stake in the new entity after they applied for it. ONGC now has a 20% stake in the new operator while Russia's Rosneft and Japan's Sodeco have 20% and 30% stakes, respectively, the official said. Exxon is yet to apply for a stake in the new entity. The new operator is being managed mainly by the Russian executives.

ONGC gets the share of its oil from the Sakhalin block, which it can sell to its customers. ONGC as well as other state-run firms—Oil India, Indian Oil, BPCL—have investments in other Russian fields from which they receive cash dividends, not oil. They have not been able to repatriate their dividends for the last year as Russia imposed restrictions following the war. Companies are in discussions with the Russian government for repatriation, the official said. He didn't give more details.

If Indian firms will be keen on buying the share Exxon has not yet subscribed to in the new operator, the official said it would depend on whether Russia offers it and at what price. "It will have to be evaluated as any other new business investment proposal in the light of the block's production capacity, oil prices, and the geopolitical situation," the official said.

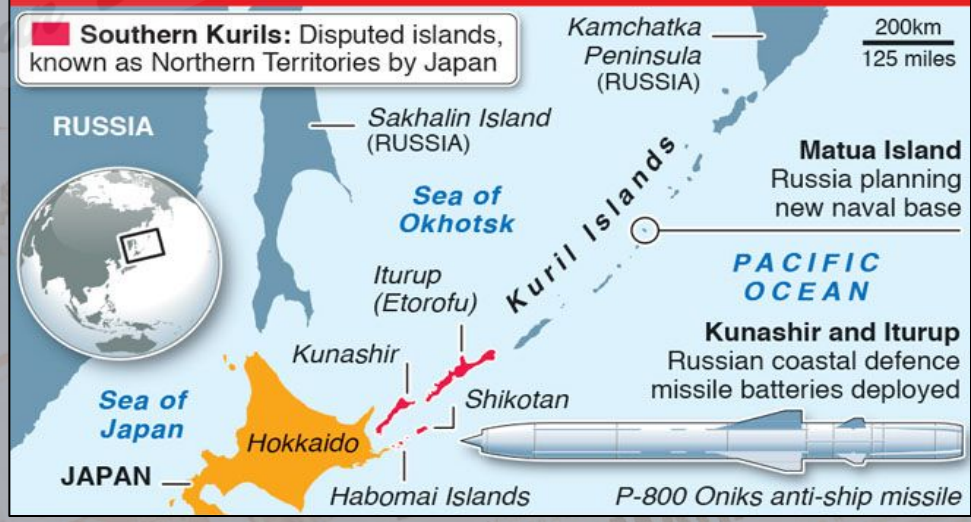
Russia has made a similar intervention at the Sakhalin-2 block, where Shell was the operator. Shell's share in the new operating entity is still unassigned.

Context: Production at **Russia's Sakhalin-1 block**, in which ONGC has a 20% stake, will reach near normal by March after a halt for months last year following the force majeure by operator ExxonMobil.

Sakhalin-I Project

- **About**: The Sakhalin-I project, **a sister project to Sakhalin-II**, is a consortium for production of oil and gas on Sakhalin Island and immediately offshore.
  - It operates **three fields in the Okhotsk Sea:** Chayvo, Odoptu and Arkutun-Dagi.
- **Origin**: In 1996, the consortium completed a production-sharing agreement between the **Sakhalin-I consortium**, the Russian Federation and the Sakhalin government.
- **Nodal Authority**: The consortium was managed and operated by **Exxon Neftegas Limited (ENL),** a unit of ExxonMobil, until Exxon's withdrawal in March 2022 following the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine.
  - The Russian government froze Exxon's investment in August 2022 and ordered its transfer to a newly created Russian company the following October.

RUSSIA-JAPAN TALKS ON DISPUTED KURIL ISLANDS



PIB JAN 10

INDIAN STANDARDS OF ELECTRONICS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

BIS publishes standards for digital television receivers with built in satellite tuners

Context: The Bureau of Indian Standards has published three significant **Indian Standards in the area of Electronics.**

Three Indian Standards

- **First standard**: Indian Standard for **digital television receivers** with built in satellite tuners.
  - TVs manufactured as per this Indian standard would **enable reception of Free-To-Air TV and Radio channels** just by connecting a dish antenna with low-noise block downconverter (LNB) mounted on a suitable place, at roof top/side wall of the building.
  - This would **facilitate transmission of knowledge** about government initiatives, schemes, educational content of Doordarshan and repository of Indian culture programs to reach and benefit wide segment of population in the country at large.
- **Second standard**: Indian Standard for **USB Type C receptacles, plug and cables.**
  - This standard **provides requirements for USB Type-C port, plug and cables** for use in various electronic devices like mobile phone, laptop, notebook etc.
  - This standard would **provide common charging solutions** for the smartphones and other electronic devices sold in the country.
  - This would **facilitate in reduction in number of charger per consumer** as consumers will no longer need to buy different chargers every time they buy a new device.
  - This would help in achieving Government of India's mission to **reduce e-waste** and move towards sustainable development.
- **Third Standard:** Indian Standards for **Video Surveillance Systems.**
  - The standard **provides a detailed outline of all the aspects of a Video Surveillance System** such as requirements for its components like camera devices, interfaces, system requirements and tests to ascertain the image quality of the camera devices and also specifies guidelines on efficient installation of the system.
  - **Video Surveillance System (VSS)** is an essential security component that is used almost everywhere to capture any unwanted activity.

Bureau of Indian Standards

- **About**: It is the National Standard Body of India for the harmonious development of the activities of **standardization, marking and quality certification of goods**.
- **Origin**: It is established by the Bureau of **Indian Standards Act, 2016** which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Department of Consumer affairs, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.**
- **Functions**: BIS has been providing **traceability and tangibility benefits** to the national economy in a number of ways by:
  - Providing safe reliable quality goods.
  - Minimizing health hazards to consumers.
  - Promoting exports and imports substitute.
  - Control over proliferation of varieties etc through standardization, certification and testing.

PIB JAN 10

PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Vice President to inaugurate 83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference

Context: The Vice President & Rajya Sabha Chairman will address the inaugural session of the **83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference** in Jaipur on 11th January, 2023.

- This is the **fourth time** that the Conference is being organized in the city of Jaipur.

Key Points

- The All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) is the **apex body of the Legislatures in India** that completed its hundred years in 2021.
- Prime Minister addressed the inaugural session of the **82nd AIPOC in 2021 in Shimla.**
- The **first Conference** was also held in Shimla in 1921.
- The upcoming 83rd session will focus on following **themes of contemporary relevance** in its day long discussions -
  - **Leadership of India in G20** as the mother of democracy.
  - The need to make Parliament and Legislature more **Effective, Accountable and Productive.**
  - Integration of State Legislatures with **Digital Parliament.**
  - The need to **maintain a harmonious relationship** between the Legislature and the Judiciary in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution.



THE HINDU Page 13

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

India, Britain sign and exchange letters for Young Professionals Scheme

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

It will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens to live and work in each other's countries

The governments of India and the U.K. marked Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9 by kicking off the Young Professionals Scheme, which will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other's countries for a period of two years.

The launch of the scheme, which was conceived as part of an India-U.K. Migration and Mobility MoU signed in May 2021, was announced in November at the G20 summit in Bali, where U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the High Commission of India in London, after a ceremony where letters were signed and exchanged between the two countries, High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, said the scheme, which will run for a period of three years initially, would hopefully be "up and running in March".

However, he indicated there were still some processes that had to be completed before a March launch. "But that is conditional on everything actually been put in place. So we don't want to make a formal announcement of a date until we are a 100% certain."

Exchange visas

Young Indians and Britons would be able to travel to each other's countries either for work or study, or visit, for two years. The scheme allows for exchange visas for up to 3,000 individuals per year.

"It isn't even necessary for you to have a job in hand, when you do this [apply for the visa]," Mr. Doraiswami said. Successful candidates could look for a job, educational or cultural opportunity once they arrived in their host country. Or they could just visit.

Permanent Under Secretary at the U.K. Home Office Matthew Rycroft represented the U.K at the signing ceremony.

The signing of the agreement belies more complex issues around the movement of persons across borders. Part of the Migration and Mobility agreement of 2021 seeks to address the return of illegal migrants to their home countries.

A 'free trade' agreement between the two countries, which the governments were hoping to conclude before Deepavali last year, was complicated in part due to the U.K. Home Secretary Suella Braverman saying Indians were the largest group of visa-overstayers in Britain and the agreement with India had "not necessarily worked very well".

The High Commission of India in London responded by saying it had acted on every case of visa overstaying referred to it by the U.K. authorities and that the government was awaiting "demonstrable progress" on some of the U.K.'s commitments under the agreement. The government is also seeking greater ease in the movement of skilled professionals and students from India to the U.K. as part of the trade discussions, the sixth round of which took place in New Delhi in December.

Context: The governments of India and the U.K. marked Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9, 2023 by kicking off the **Young Professionals Scheme**, which will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other's countries for a period of two years.

Young Professionals Scheme

- **About**: The newly elected United Kingdom Prime Minister announced the **UK-India Young Professionals Scheme** for young Indian professionals.
  - The launch of the scheme, which was conceived as part of an India-U.K. Migration and Mobility **MoU signed in May 2021,** was announced in November at the G20 summit in Bali, where U.K. Prime Minister held talks with Prime Minister.
- **Key features of the scheme**:
  - The UK-India Young Professionals Scheme will **provide Indians places to work** in the United Kingdom for up to two years.
  - It will **benefit 3,000 degree-holding Indians** aged 18 to 30 years.
  - This scheme will be **implemented from the early 2023** on a reciprocal basis.
  - The initiative will **strengthen the Mobility Partnership and Migration** between the countries as agreed in 2021.
  - This scheme makes India the **first visa-national country** to benefit from the scheme.
  - It was launched by the United Kingdom **amid the huge labor shortages** in the country.
- **Challenges of this scheme:** Currently, millions of Indians are eligible for the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme. Therefore, it will **create the problem of over-subscription of visas.**
  - There are also **concerns regarding the monopolization** of the scheme.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 12

NON-RESIDENT INDIAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

'Did we come to be insulted?': NRIs with passes denied entry

Salil Mekaad & Sagar Choukse | TNN

Indore: Chaos descended on the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Indore during PM Narendra Modi's inaugural event Monday as scores of NRIs with valid passes were denied entry into the main hall of Brilliant Convention Centre after the number of guests apparently far exceeded its seating capacity of 2,000.

A stampede-like situation was seen when police partially opened a gate to allow some NRIs to enter the hall. Some got hurt and screams of pain were heard as the crowd surged and tried to squeeze through the narrow space. Videos of this went viral.

A 58-year-old NRI from Mauritius was rushed to hospital after he fainted, while another delegate fell down and injured his forehead.

As the crowd swelled, more than 500 people were herded into a registration area and asked to watch the event on large screens. Upset and angry, NRI delegates from the US, Britain, Jamaica, Mauritius, Qatar and several other nations minced no words. "We have paid to attend the event and have flown down for this. This is insulting," said a delegate.

"Why should we watch the event on TV? I could have done it at home. Why did I have to spend so much and come here? This is insulting. Is this Atithi Devo Bhava?" asked Julie Jain from the US.

"If we had to see Modiji on screen, we could have done it back home," another delegate griped.

The uproar prompted CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan to apologise from the stage, before Modi and other dignitaries delivered their speeches. "I apologise. The hall fell inadequate. But there is no shortage of love and affection for you in our hearts," he said.

The question being asked now is why didn't the organisers plan for it when they knew well in advance that 3,500 delegates had paid $100 each and registered for it? The main hall can seat 2,000, but filled up 90 minutes before Modi's arrival. Some delegates were heard fuming that the hall was "filled with party workers and sarkari officials".

Even mediapeople had a tough time entering the hall. Many were stopped at the gates. Jay Mandal, a US-based photojournalist, was shocked to see the media being kept away from PM's event and told to depend on government handouts. MEA officials refused any comment other than "We can't do anything".

Times View: Sloppy management of such mega events, where hundreds of eminent PIOs and NRIs are invited, not only discomforts the guests but also lowers the image of India. One hopes that the event is better organised tomorrow. Atithi Devo Bhava (The Guest is God) cannot be reduced to a catchline. It should be followed in letter and spirit.

Context: Chaos descended on the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Indore during PM's inaugural event as scores of **NRIs with valid passes** were denied entry into the main hall of Brilliant Convention Centre after the number of guests apparently far exceeded its seating capacity of 2,000.

Non-Resident Indian (NRI)

- **About**: NRI is a **residential status** given to a citizen of India with an Indian Passport who resides in a foreign country for the purpose of work/business, or education.
- **Eligibility for NRI:**
  - **Individual living for 182 days** in the preceding financial year in India.
  - **Individual living for 60 days** in that year specifically Or been here for 365 days straight for the last 4 years.
- **Benefits of being an NRI:**
  - Banks offer **special overseas accounts** like RFC/FCNR/NRE/NRO accounts.
  - The education system in India allows a **special reservation quota** for NRIs.
  - They **can vote for elections** but you have to be physically present in the polling booth.
  - Their income earned abroad will **not be taxed** by the Income-Tax Dept of India.
- **Limitations of being an NRI:**
  - They **cannot purchase agricultural land**.
  - They are **taxed for the income** they earn in India.

DTE

JAN 10

OZONE CONSERVATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

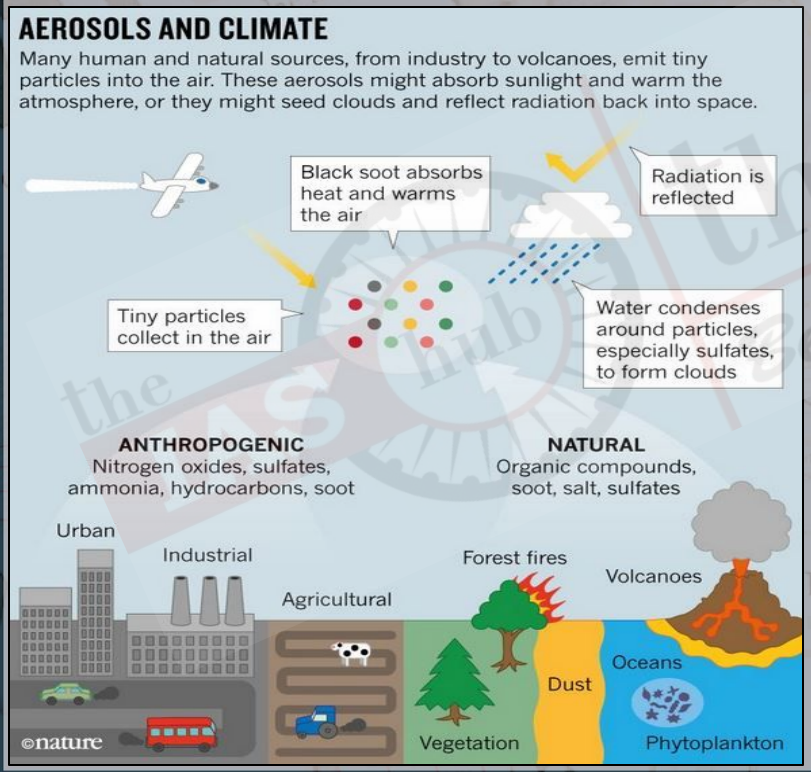


Ozone layer to recover in 4 decades but aerosol injection may undo gains: UNEP

The success of the Montreal Protocol can inspire climate action, say scientists

NEXT NEWS >

By Preetha Banerjee
Published: Monday 09 January 2023



Context: The successful phasing out of banned substances as envisioned by the **Montreal Protocol** has set the stage for a complete **recovery of the ozone layer** by the 2060s.

Key Points

- The **first ozone hole was discovered** in the stratospheric layers over the Antarctic in 1985, which allowed harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation to pass into the lowest layer of the Earth's atmosphere (troposphere) where humans live.
- **UV radiation** is linked with health hazards such as skin cancer, cataracts and other conditions in the eye and reduced immunity.
- The **Montreal Protocol enforced in 1989** called for a ban on the use and trade of 100 **ozone-depleting substances (ODS),** and 99 per cent of these have been successfully phased out.
- The implementation of the **2016 Kigali Amendment** to the Montreal Protocol for phasing out some hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), for instance, can gain from the success of the ODS ban.
- **Injection of sulphuric acid** into the stratosphere, for example, would damage the ozone layer.
- **Aerosol sprays**, like other commonly used substances such as dry cleaning solvents, refrigerants and fumigants, contain ODS.

Aerosols

- **About**: Aerosols are **tiny particles or droplets** that float in the air and influence climate.
- **Location**: These particles are **mainly situated in the low layers of the atmosphere (< 1.5 km)** since aerosol sources are located on the terrestrial surface.
    - Certain aerosols can still be found in the stratosphere, especially volcanic aerosols ejected into the high altitude layers.
- **Sources**: The sources of aerosols are **erupting volcanoes, sea salt and wildfires**. Humans, too, add aerosols to the atmosphere by **burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.**
- **Effects of aerosols:**
    - Aerosols can damage lung tissue and **lead to lung diseases.**
    - They **influence the climate** by changing how much solar energy is absorbed or reflected away from Earth.
    - Aerosols influence the Earth's climate by **acting as seeds on which clouds form.**
    - Increased aerosol particles can **lead to more but smaller cloud droplets**, which may likely reduce rains that fall from the cloud.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 16

LAND SUBSIDENCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

LAND SUBSIDENCE

The ground in Joshimath, Uttarakhand, has been sinking, and cracks have appeared on roads and buildings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

ALMOST A week after cracks appeared on roads and in hundreds of houses in Uttarakhand's Joshimath, authorities on Sunday declared it a "landslide-subsidence zone".

What is land subsidence?

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), subsidence is the "sinking of the ground because of underground material movement". It can be caused by a variety of reasons, man-made or natural, such as the removal of water, oil, or other natural resources, and mining activities. Earthquakes and soil erosion are also some of the well-known causes of subsidence.

The NOAA website says this phenomenon can "happen over very large areas like whole states or provinces, or very small areas like the corner of your yard".

Possible cause in Joshimath

The reason behind the land subsidence in Joshimath is still unknown, but experts suggest that it might have been caused by unplanned construction, overpopulation, obstruction of the natural flow of water, and hydel power activities. The area is a seismic zone, which makes it prone to frequent tremors.

Warning bells for Joshimath were first sounded about 50 years ago in the MC Mishra Committee report, which pointed to unplanned development in the area that already had natural vulnerabilities.

According to experts, Joshimath city has been built on ancient landslide material — meaning it rests on a deposit of sand and stone, not rock, which doesn't have a high load-bearing capacity.

The lack of a proper drainage system could also have contributed to the sinking of the area. The accumulated water seeps into the rocks below, softening them.



Cracks in a house in Joshimath in Chamoli district on Monday PTI

Context: Almost a week after cracks appeared in many roads and hundreds of houses of Joshimath, Uttarakhand, authorities declared it a **landslide and subsidence-hit zone.**

Land Subsidence

- **About**: According to the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),** subsidence is the "sinking of the ground because of underground material movement".
  - This phenomenon can "**happen over very large areas like whole states or provinces, or very small areas** like the corner of your yard."
- **Causes:** It can happen for a host of reasons, **man-made or natural,** such as the removal of water, oil, or natural resources, along with mining activities.
  - Earthquakes, soil erosion, and soil compaction are also some of the well-known causes of subsidence.
- **Reasons behind Joshimath subsidence:** The exact reason behind Joshimath land subsidence is still unknown but experts suggest that the incident might have occurred because of **unplanned construction, over-population, obstruction of the natural flow of water and hydel power activities.**
  - Not only this, the area is a **seismic zone**, which makes it prone to frequent earthquakes.
  - According to experts, Joshimath city has been **built on an ancient landslide material** - meaning it rests on a deposit of sand and stone, not rock, which doesn't have high load-bearing capacity.
  - This makes the area extremely **vulnerable to ever-burgeoning infrastructure** and population.
  - Residents allege that the **NTPC's Tapovan Vishnugad Hydro Power Project** tunnel had water seepage "from a punctured aquifer, leading to the drying of water sources in Joshimath
- **MC Mishra committee report:** The possibility of such an incident happening in the region was f**irst highlighted around 50 years** when the MC Mishra committee report was published and it cautioned against "unplanned development in this area, and identified the natural vulnerabilities."

DTE JAN 10

MALI PARBAT BAUXITE MINE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Mali Parbat bauxite mine: District judge presides over public hearing for EC but residents allege 'mind games'

District administration slapped notices on 40 people and deployed paramilitary forces days ahead of hearing

NEXT NEWS >

By Shuchita Jha
Published: Monday 09 January 2023



Context: Public hearing on the environment clearance (EC) for **Mali Parbat Bauxite Mining** by Hindalco Industries in Koraput on January 7, 2023 was presided over by the district judicial officer.

- This was following the order of the **Orissa High Court** passed on December 1 last year.

Background

- In 2006, **Hindalco** was granted EC for an area of 268.110 hectares of Mali Parbat to carry out **bauxite mining.**
- During the 26th meeting of the **Expert Appraisal Committee** in January 2021, it was noted that the project proponent obtained EC in 2006 and its validity expired after 2011.
- The proponent operated the mines from 2012 to 2014 without obtaining EC under **Environmental Impact Assessment Committee Notification**, in violation of the rules.
- The committee also **did not allow the proponent capacity expansion** from 600,000 million tonnes per year to 900,000 million tonnes.
- The high court has asked the district administration and the **Odisha Pollution Control Board** to submit all the documents by January 15, 2023.
- The hearing in the high court has been **scheduled for January 30, 2023**.

Bauxite

- **About**: Bauxite is an **important ore** that is **used for making aluminium.** It is an oxide of aluminium. It is **not a specific mineral but a rock** consisting mainly of hydrated aluminium oxides.
- **Production of Aluminum from Bauxite**: This industry is divided into 2 segments:
  - The **plants for obtaining alumina from bauxite ore**, such plants are located near bauxite mines.
  - The **plants for reduction of Alumina into Aluminum**, such plants are located near the cheap source of electricity.
    - For producing 1 ton of aluminum, 6 tons of bauxite is required (which produces 2 tons of alumina).
    - In this process, aluminium ore is treated with concentrated sodium hydroxide. Soluble sodium aluminate is formed which is filtered off.
    - The **filtrate on heating** with water gives aluminium hydroxide which gives alumina on strong heating.

- **Distribution of Bauxite in the world** The world bauxite reserves are estimated at 28 billion tonnes and are located mainly in Guinea (26%), Australia (22%), Brazil (9%), Vietnam (8%), Jamaica (7%), Indonesia (4%), Guyana & China (3% each).
  - **Australia continues to be the major producer of Bauxite** and accounts for about 30% share in total world production, followed by China (25%), Brazil (14%), India (8%) and Guinea (7%).
- **Distribution of Bauxite in India**: By States, **Odisha alone accounts for 53% of country's resources of bauxite**. The ranking of states in terms of bauxite resources are Odisha (53%), Andhra Pradesh (16%), Gujarat (8%), Jharkhand (5%), Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh (4% each).

Secure Top Rank with theIAShub Courses

Prelims 2023 Courses

01 Prelims Crash Course Score Enhancement Program (SEP)

02 INA Current Affairs (Prelims)

03 TACKLE - Prelims Test Series

04 Geography - Prelims Crash Course

Quality Enrichment Courses (Mains 2023)

01 Quality Enrichment Program (QEP)

02 Science of Answer Writing (SAW)

Prelim Cum Mains 2024 Courses

01 NEEV GS Foundation 2024/25

02 INA Current Affairs Pre Cum Mains - 2024

FREE Download PDF

Login to theiashub.com

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



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

SCAN HERE

9560082909

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com

www.theiashub.com