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सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

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TIMES OF INDIA

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TCS AND TDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Using prepaid forex cards? Still no clarity on 20% TCS

Yogesh.Kabirdoss
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Chennai: At a time when tour operators are flagging the move to levy 20% tax collected source (TCS) on overseas tour packages, ambiguity prevails over whether foreign currency and prepaid forex cards purchased in authorised full fledged money changers (FFMC) and forex dealers will also attract the tax.

At present, foreign currency and prepaid forex cards up to Rs 7 lakh accessed through these RBI-authorised facilities for international travel is out of the purview of TCS.

Foreign exchange dealers have raised concern over the lack of clarity on whether TCS of 20% would be applied under the liberalized remittance scheme (LRS) effective from July 1. Bhaskar Rao P, managing director of Orient Exchange and general secretary of All India Money Changers and Money Transfer Agents Association, said, no specific clarification has been provided for small value transactions involving foreign currency cash and prepaid forex cards.

TAX DILEMMA

- Foreign currency and prepaid forex cards are widely used by individuals travelling abroad for leisure trips & employment
- There's lack of clarity on whether TCS of 20% would be applied under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) effective from July 1, 2023
- If levied, travellers will end up paying more on availing international currencies and tourist travel cards

"Foreign currency and prepaid forex cards are widely used by individuals travelling abroad for leisure trips and employment. If this is brought under the ambit of TCS, then travellers will end up paying more on availing international currencies and tourist travel cards, particularly affecting the lower middle classes and those travelling for overseas employment," he said.

A tax expert told **TOI** that TCS would apply to foreign exchange cards as well, and the banking regulator is likely to issue a notification clarifying this.

An estimated 5,000 to 7,000 FFMCs operate in India, facilitating money exchange of over $10 billion every year.

Rajiv Mehra, president of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) said, levying 20% TCS effective from July 1 will adversely affect Indian companies. "Higher TCS will trigger people to book overseas tour packages through international agencies online to keep the tax at bay. This will not only hit the Indian tour operators but also revenue to the government because the latter will not get 5% GST and existing 5% TCS on overseas tour packages since all the transactions will happen in the foreign destinations," he said. This will have a bearing on employment in the tourism sector, he added.

MakeMyTrip group CFO Mohit Kabra said the Rs 7-lakh exemption should be extended for tour packages also. "This is the need of the hour since it would benefit the first-time travellers, who generally prefer a destination in southeast Asia and the overall value of the tour package will be less," he said. During the pre-Covid year of 2019, nearly 2.7 crore Indians travelled overseas for outbound tourism, Union tourism ministry's data showed.

Context: Foreign exchange dealers have raised concern over the **lack of clarity on whether TCS of 20%** would be applied under the liberalized remittance scheme (LRS) effective from July 1.

- At present, foreign currency and prepaid forex cards up to Rs 7 lakh accessed through these **RBI-authorised facilities** for international travel is out of the purview of TCS.

TDS and TCS

- Tax Deducted at Source and Tax Collected at Source are **both incurred at the source of income.**
- TDS is the **tax which is deducted on a payment** made by a company to an individual, in case the amount exceeds a certain limit. TCS is the tax which is **collected by sellers** while selling something to buyers.
- TDS deduction is applicable on payments such as salaries, rent, professional fee, brokerage, commission, etc. TCS deduction is applicable on sales of goods like timber, scrap, mineral wood, and so on.
- TDS is **applicable only on payments** that exceed a certain amount. TCS is **applicable on sales of specific goods** which don't include production or manufacturing material.

THE CURRENT AND PROPOSED TCS RATES

S No.	Type of remmitance	Present rate	Proposed rate
(i)	For the purpose of any eduacation, if the amount being remitted out is a loan obtained from any financial institutino as defiend in Section 80E	0.5% of the amount or the aggregate of the amounts in excess of Rs. 7 lakh	No change
(ii)	For the purpose of education, other than (i) or for the purpose of medical treatment	5% of the amount of the aggregate of the amounts in excess of Rs. 7 lakh	No change
(iii)	Overseas tour package	5% without any threshold limit	20% without any threshold limit
(iv)	Any other case	5% of the amount or the aggregate of the amounts in excess of Rs. 7 lakh	20% without any threshold limit

BUSINESS STANDARD

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SNOWBALL EFFECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

India witnessing 'snowball effect', robust growth on cards: WEF chief

India is expected to clock the highest growth among the world's big economies this year and the country's economy is witnessing the "famous snowball effect" that will lead to more investments and more jobs, according to World Economic Forum (WEF) President Borge Brende.

"There have been reforms that have led to less red tape, better climate for investments and also the digital revolution is really happening in India," Brende said and stressed that he is "very bullish and optimistic" about the country's growth trajectory but not so optimistic about global growth.

"I think that nations in the developing world have something to learn from India. India is the largest democracy in the world and it is also an open society with entrepreneurs and innovators and free speech," he said.

"When the snowball starts to roll, it gets bigger and bigger, and that is what is happening with the Indian economy. The growth will lead to more investments, more jobs... it will be an exponential growth in the coming years and you will see a situation where more poverty is eradicated and more opportunities are there for young people," Brende said. PTI

Context: India is expected to clock the highest growth among the world's big economies this year and the country's economy is witnessing the "**famous snowball effect"** that will lead to more investments and more jobs, according to **World Economic Forum (WEF).**

Key Points

- Snowball effect means that **a single event causes a series of major events.** Due to this the Indian economy will grow rapidly.
- There have been reforms that have **led to less red tape, better climate for investments** and also the **digital revolution** is really happening in India.
- India, which currently holds the G20 presidency, is **one of the fastest growing key economies** in the world and WEF has had close collaborations with the country for the past many years.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

- **About**: It is a **Swiss nonprofit foundation** established in 1971, based in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - **Recognized by the Swiss authorities** as the international institution for public-private cooperation.
- **Objectives**: Committed to **improving the state of the world by engaging business**, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- **Major reports published by WEF:**
  - Energy Transition Index.
  - Global Competitiveness Report.
  - Global IT Report (along with INSEAD and Cornell University).
  - Global Gender Gap Report.
  - Global Risk Report.
  - Global Travel and Tourism Report.

LIVE MINT

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India moves WTO dispute panel over ICT import duties

Ravi Dutta Mishra
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NEW DELHI

India has moved the World Trade Organization's (WTO) apex dispute resolution body, the Appellate Body, against a WTO panel ruling that said its import duties on some information and technology (ICT) products are inconsistent with global trade norms.

Arguing that the panel committed legal errors in interpretation of the trade norms, India asked the tribunal to "reverse, modify, or declare moot and of no legal effect, the findings, conclusions, rulings and recommendations of the panel".

Notably, the tribunal hasn't been functional for nearly two years due to America's blockage on appointment of judges. And with the appeal, the matter is likely to prolong.

Earlier, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said developed countries have been inadvertently impacted by some Indian tariffs. Without naming China, he said New Delhi has kept tariffs high on several products to compete with certain "non-transparent" geographies.

In a 17 April report, the WTO's dispute panel said import duties imposed by India on certain information and technology products violate global trade norms. This followed a dispute filed by the European Union (EU), Japan and Taiwan against these duties in WTO. The appeal was filed by India in the WTO's Appellate Body, the final authority on trade disputes.

"The panel's decision proceeds on the basis that India already had notice of expansion of tariff lines under its schedule, and thereafter India contributed through its inaction during the transposition process. As such, the legal standard to determine whether a member state contributed by its conduct cannot proceed on the basis that it already had notice of the error. These standards are different and the panel made a legal error in presuming that India already had notice of the error and notice is, in fact, essential before contribution through conduct is determined," India told the WTO.



In 2019, the EU challenged Indian import duties on ICT products.

The WTO on April 17 said that the import duties imposed by India on certain I&T products violate global norms

The EU on 2 April, 2019 challenged the introduction of import duties by India on a wide range of ICT products, for instance, mobile phones and components, base stations, integrated circuits and optical instruments.

Mint earlier reported that India will retaliate against a EU law that allows it to suspend concessions and impose trade restrictions if the law is invoked in response to an Indian appeal against a ruling on ICT tariffs at the WTO's dispute settlement.

GLOBAL TRADE NORMS DISPUTE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: India has moved the **World Trade Organization's (WTO)** apex dispute resolution body, the Appellate Body, against a WTO panel ruling that said its import duties on some information and technology products are **inconsistent with global trade norms.**

- The **dispute arose after the European Union (EU), Japan, and Taiwan filed a complaint** against India's import duties on ICT products, asserting that they violated global trading norms.
- The WTO's dispute panel issued a report on April 17, supporting the complainants' argument.

Background

- India has since 2014 gradually **introduced customs duties of up to 20%** on products such as mobile phones, mobile phone components and accessories, line telephone handsets, base stations, static converters or electric wires and cables.
- The EU considered that these duties were in **direct breach of WTO rules** since India is obliged under its WTO commitments to apply a zero-duty rate to such products.

WTO's Ruling and India's Stand

- The WTO upheld all EU claims against India and found that India's tariffs of up to 20% on certain ICT products, such as mobile phones, were not in line with its WTO commitments, and thus are **illegal**.
- India's tariffs on certain IT products violated global trading rules, as they were inconsistent with the terms of the **Information Technology Agreement (ITA).**
    - The ITA is a global trade agreement that aims to eliminate tariffs on a wide range of IT products. India is signatory to the 1996 ITA.
- India had maintained that its binding tariff **commitments are in accordance to the Information Technology Agreement** and that these commitments did not change upon their incorporation into India's WTO Schedule.

Implications

- The WTO ruling against India may have **significant implications for trade relations between India and the EU, as well as Japan and Taiwan.**
    - **EU is India's third-largest trading partner**, accounting for 10.8% of total Indian trade in 2021.
- India may be **required to lower or eliminate the import duties** that were challenged by the EU and other countries.
- This could have an **impact on India's domestic manufacturing sector,** which has been protected by such tariffs.

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MUMBAI TRANS HARBOUR LINK

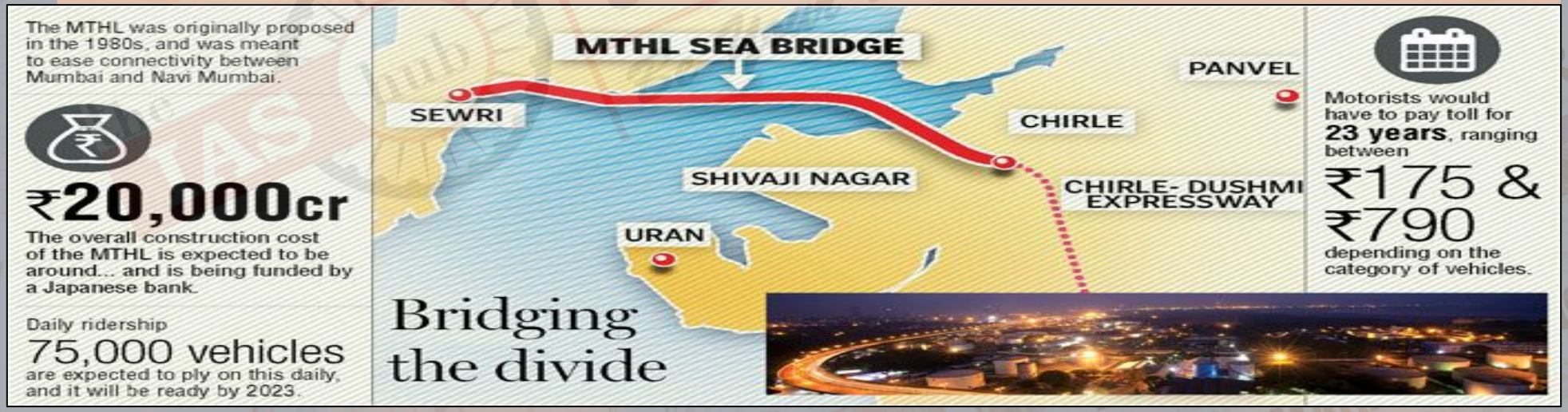
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

PM expresses happiness over India's longest sea bridge Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL)

Context: The Prime Minister expressed his happiness over India's longest sea bridge **Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL)** and said that it is next generation infrastructure which will boost 'Ease of Living' for people.

Key Points

- The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, also known as the **Sewri–Nhava Sheva Trans Harbour Link**, is an under-construction 21.8 km (13.5 mi) 6-lane access-controlled expressway grade road bridge, which will connect Mumbai with Navi Mumbai, its satellite city.
- Mumbai Trans Harbour Link will be **India's longest and the world's 10th-longest sea bridge** to date.
- This is the first project in India with an **open road tolling system.**
- For the first time in India, **Orthotropic Steel Deck technology** is used for the construction of this bridge.
- As many as 85,000 Metric tons of **orthotropic steel,** equal to the weight of Boeing 747 aircraft, is used for construction.
- Around 1,70,000 Metric Ton of **steel bars**, equivalent to the weight of 17 Eiffel Towers, has been used.
- Nearly 48,000 km long prestressing wires, equal to four times the diameter of Earth, have been used for MTHL.
- 9,75,000 cubic meters of concrete, which is **six times the concrete used for The Statue of Liberty,** was used to construct the structure.



PIB MAY 27

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES FOR JUDICIARY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for The Judiciary

Context: The **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Department of Justice (Ministry of Law & Justice) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities** for the Judiciary is transforming judicial infrastructure at District and Subordinate Courts since its inception, enhancing state government resources for constructing court buildings, digital computer rooms, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and residential accommodations for Judicial officers.

Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

- **About**: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been in **operation since 1993-94.**
- **Objective**: The primary **responsibility of infrastructure development for the subordinate judiciary** rests with the State Governments, however, the Central Government through this CSS augments the resources of the State Governments for construction of court buildings and residential quarters for Judicial Officers (JO) in all the States / UTs.
- **Funding Pattern:** The fund-sharing pattern under the scheme is **60:40 (Centre: State), 90:10 for 8 North-Eastern and 2 Himalayan States & 100% central funding for the Union Territories.**
- **Nodal Agency**: **Department of Justice** has developed an online monitoring system with technical assistance from ISRO.
  - The upgraded **"Nyaya Vikas-2.0" web portal** and mobile application is used for monitoring physical and financial progress of CSS judicial infrastructure projects by geo-tagging completed and ongoing projects.
  - Quarterly review meetings are held with the representatives of all States/UTs and High Courts.
  - Regular State level meetings of the Monitoring Committee are held by various High Courts, States with State Chief Secretaries and PWD officials to enable speedy and good construction.
  - The **Gram Nyayalaya Portal** helps online monitoring of working of the Gram Nyayalayas by the implementing states.
- **Recent Developments:** In 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary for **further five years** from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026 at a total cost of Rs.9000 crore,
  - The **Gram Nyayalayas Act,** 2008 that came into force from 2 October 2009 was enacted for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India.
  - The Cabinet also approved the decision to **support the Gram Nyayalayas** by proving recurring and non-recurring grants for a period of 5 years with a total outlay of Rs 50 crores.
  - **Funds will be released to the states only after the notified Gram Nyayalayas** are operationalized and Nyayadhikaran is have been appointed and reported on the Gram Nyayalaya portal of Department of Justice.

ECONOMIC TIMES

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RICE FORTIFICATION AND ANAEMIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Rice Fortification Pilots in India Show Drop in Anaemia

Up to 1 million children included in studies

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's pilot studies on rice fortification showed that nutritional anaemia could be reduced, with a significant drop in the prevalence of anaemia among schoolchildren, according to a United Nations report.

Through its World Food Programme, the UN supported national and state governments with a unique pilot-to-scale approach that could be "useful in countries where governments are not yet fully convinced about fortification".

The pilots included up to one million children.

"In cases where there is already government buy-in, advocacy and sharing the experiences of other countries may be sufficient and would likely achieve scale faster," the UN said in a case study last year.

Another approach would be for countries to undertake a pilot to test feasibility and acceptability and omit evaluating the impact on anaemia, which may take a couple of years, it said.

As per the report, the pilots generated the proof needed to go big on India's fragmented rice industry and the large scale of social assistance programmes. The public distribution system alone serves 800 million people, so there was concern that efforts to roll out rice fortification could not achieve the required scale and quality.

"Some stakeholders felt that even though rice fortification efforts had been successful in other countries, these experiences would be difficult to replicate in the Indian context," the UN said.

Four large-scale pilots in different parts of the country were done – three in the school lunch and one in the Integrated Child Development Scheme.

These pilots effectively demonstrated that rice fortification could be rolled out through existing social assistance distribution systems and costs could be lowered through economies of scale, according to the UN.

After witnessing the success and feasibility of the pilots, in 2021 the government announced that all rice distributed through the three food-based social assistance programmes would be fortified by 2024.



Context: India's pilot studies on **rice fortification** showed that **nutritional anaemia** could be reduced, with a significant drop in the prevalence of anaemia among schoolchildren, according to a United Nations report.

- Through its **World Food Programme,** the UN supported national and state governments with a unique pilot-to-scale approach that could be "useful in countries where governments are not yet fully convinced about fortification".
- After witnessing the success and feasibility of the pilots, in 2021 the government announced that all rice distributed through the three **food-based social assistance programmes** would be fortified by 2024.

Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its Distribution under Public Distribution System

- **About**: To address anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency in the country, Government of India approved the **Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on "Fortification of Rice & its Distribution under Public Distribution System"** for a period of 3 years beginning 2019-20 with total budget outlay of Rs 174.64 Cr.
- **Objectives the Scheme**: The key objectives of the Pilot Scheme are:
  - **Distribution of Fortified Rice** through Public Distribution System, to cater 15 Districts in the country - preferably one district per State in the initial phase of Implementation.
  - **Coverage of NFSA,** beneficiaries under PDS with Fortified Rice in the selected Districts.
  - **Facilitate cross learning and sharing** of best practices among States/UTs and DoF&PD.
  - To evaluate the provision, **coverage and Utilization of Fortified Rice by the target population** as well as the efficiency/effectiveness of the consumption of fortified rice in reducing the targeted micronutrient deficiencies in different age and gender groups.

Anaemia

- **About**: It is a condition in which the number of **red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration** within them is lower than normal.
  - **Haemoglobin** is needed to carry oxygen and if you have too few or abnormal red blood cells, or not enough haemoglobin, there will be a decreased capacity of the blood to carry oxygen to the body's tissues.
- **Causes**: The most common causes of anaemia include **nutritional deficiencies which include iron deficiency.**
  - Though deficiencies in **folate, vitamins B12 and A** are also important causes; haemoglobinopathies; and infectious diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV and parasitic infections.
- **Treatment**: While i**ron deficiency** anaemia is the most common form and is relatively easy to treat through dietary changes.
  - Other forms of anaemia require **health interventions** that may be less accessible.

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CHILD WASTING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

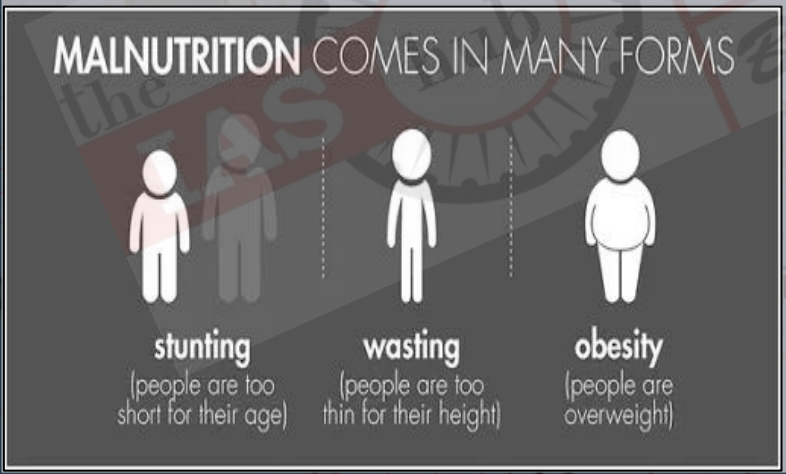
India's child wasting rate 18.7% as per latest UN inter-agency estimates

India is the largest country in southern Asia, where half of all children with wasting in the world live

NEXT NEWS >

By DTE Staff
Published: Friday 26 May 2023





Context: In 2020, some 18.7 per cent of Indian **children were affected by wasting** caused by poor nutrient intake and / or recurrent illnesses, the latest United Nations (UN) inter-agency estimates have noted.

- **India is the largest country in southern Asia**, which is where half of all children with wasting in the world live. In 2022, an estimated 45 million children under five (6.8 per cent) were affected by wasting globally, of which 13.6 million (2.1 per cent) were suffering from severe wasting.
- More than three quarters of all children with severe wasting live in Asia and another 22 per cent live in Africa.

Wasting and Stunting

- **Wasting**: It is defined as **low weight-for-height.** It often indicates recent and severe weight loss, although it can also persist for a long time.
  - It usually occurs when a person has **not had food of adequate quality and quantity** and/or they have had frequent or prolonged illnesses.
  - Wasting in children is **associated with a higher risk of death** if not treated properly.
- **Stunting**: It is defined as **low height-for-age.** It is the result of **chronic or recurrent undernutrition**, usually associated with poverty, poor maternal health and nutrition, frequent illness and/or inappropriate feeding and care in early life.
  - Stunting prevents children from reaching their **physical and cognitive potential.**

DTE

MAY 27

STONE CRUSHER SECTOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

CPCB's new guidelines for India's stone crusher sector a welcome step

CPCB guidelines in alignment with recommendations made by non-profit Centre for Science and Environment

NEXT NEWS >

By Shobhit Srivastava
Published: Friday 26 May 2023

Context: The stone crusher sector is responsible for **significant fugitive dust emissions** and causes severe air pollution.

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** published the Environmental Guidelines for Stone Crushing units May 12, 2023.
- The guidelines are in alignment with the recommendations made by New Delhi-based non-profit **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).**

Points CSE proposed	CPCB status	Additional points included by CPCB
Process-wise source of emissions and measures to be taken for pollution abatement: Unloading of raw material for storage, unloading of raw material into hopper, primary crushing / jaw crusher, secondary crushing, screening, tertiary crushing, conveyor belts, discharge points	Accepted and included in the guidelines	**Product storage** 1. Properly designed telescopic chute of adequate length of suitable material should be provided at ends of conveyer so that dust generated from this section is contained at source 2. All open stockpiles for aggregates of size above 5 mm should be kept sufficiently wet by water spraying 3. Stockpiles of aggregates of 5 milimetres size or less should be covered to ensure that same is not carried away (or whipped out) by wind
General measures: Wind breaking walls, roads, housekeeping, plantation, housing structure to ensure movement and sign board	Accepted and included in the guidelines	**Transportation**: Vehicles carrying any kind of material should be completely covered with suitable material. **Regular wetting of roads:** It should be carried out to suppress dust within premises to control air borne dust emission **Water consumption and handling**: Unit should provide settling tanks of appropriate size and recycle & reuse of water in process. Crusher should provide a water storage tank with adequate capacity. In case of use of groundwater, stone crushing unit should obtain permission for abstraction of groundwater from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)/Ground Water Department (GWD) of State/UT. Unit should maintain proper log book of consumption of fresh water. Based on the availability, efforts may be used to use STP treated water instead ground water All stone crushers should have legal source of raw material.
For monitoring and regulatory mechanism 1. Crushers should be allowed to operate in the dedicated crusher zones only. The zones should be identified by the State Government in consultation with SPCBs. In case, any standalone crusher is allowed, it should operate only during day hours, 10 am to 6 pm. 2. Online ambient air monitoring stations should be installed in crusher zones as per CPCB / SPCB guidelines in the upward and downward directions. 3. The crusher shall install CCTV cameras at the entrance and all corners of the crusher covering the entire crusher area with minimum storage of 30 days. 4. The crusher should provide a water storage tank with a minimum capacity of 20 kilo litres. 5. A minimum area should be mandated by SPCB for establishment of a crusher, which can accommodate crusher green area, storage area and vehicular parking section. 6. SPCB should work with stone crusher associations for the construction of metalled road throughout the crusher zones.	**Point 1**: accepted and included. Provision of timing for standalone crushers not included. **Point 2:** accepted and included. Manual monitoring also included **Point 3:** not included **Point 4**: Included in general measures as "Crusher should provide a water storage tank with adequate capacity". **Point 5**: not included **Point 6**: Accepted and included	1. Stone crushing unit should obtain Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) from the concerned SPCB/PCC. 2. Stone crushing unit shall comply with emission norms prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and conditions laid down in CTO by concerned SPCB/PCC. 3. Stone crushing unit should obtain a green belt development plan from concerned Department of the State/UT. 4. A District Level Committee to be constituted under chairmanship of District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner so that surprise inspections for surveillance of stone crushing units located under their jurisdiction can be carried out on regular basis. 5. Health survey of workers should be carried out by the stone crusher on half-yearly basis.

THE HINDU

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CENSUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Population & Associated Issues)

Only six religion options make it to next Census form

Detailed codes for Sarnaism, the Lingayat religion, etc. were dropped in the final schedule; form to include questions on source of drinking water

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Do you consume "packaged or bottled water"? The Census wants to know. This will be one of the new questions in the next Census, which will also introduce "natural calamities" as a new option when asking about the factors responsible for migration of an individual or a family, besides existing options.

Despite demands from several communities to be counted as a separate religion, the next Census will only count Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain as options. Nature-worshipping Adivasis in Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and Odisha have been campaigning to include their Sarna faith as a separate religion, while Karnataka's Lingayats have been making a similar demand.

Though respondents can write the name of any other religion, no separate code will be provided.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Making it count

Next Census is a mix of newer aspects and older conventions

- Next Census retains six options for religions
- The Census introduces questions on bottled water consumption and migration due to natural calamities
- Next Census will be India's first digital one, allowing citizens to participate from the comfort of their home
- New queries about travel time and Metro rail usage have been added
- The Census now includes categories such as acid attack, intellectual disability, chronic neurological disease, and blood disorder in the disability section
- A code directory is added to streamline data processing



Context: Despite demands from several communities to be **counted as a separate religion**, the next Census will only count Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain as distinct religion options.

- **Nature-worshipping Adivasis** in Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, and Odisha have been campaigning to include their Sarna faith as a separate religion, while Karnataka's Lingayats have been making a similar demand.
- The details are explained in a report titled, **"The Treatise on Indian Censuses Since 1981"**, which was released recently.

Key Points

- **No separate codes:** Though respondents can **additionally write the name of any other religion** in the Census form, no separate code will be provided.
  - Census officials had **dropped designed detailed codes for religion** on the basis of data collected during Census 2011.
  - **Only six religion codes** were retained in the final schedule after deliberations at a data users conference.
- **Digital Census**: The next Census is also set to be the **first digital Census**, where respondents will have the option to fill in the questionnaire from the comforts of their own homes.
- **Commuter queries**: A comparison of the questions asked in 2011 and those finalised for the next Census shows that **for a section on the mode of travel to place of work**, respondents will have to answer new queries on their travel time in hours and minutes, and whether they use metro rail.
  - A question on **types and causes of disabilities** has been expanded to include "acid attack, intellectual disability, chronic neurological disease and blood disorder."
  - The next Census will also record **details on whether a person who lives in a rented house owns a house** somewhere else or does not own any residential property.
- **Directory to reduce bias**: For the first time, a code directory has been prepared for the use of enumerators.
  - It has codes in r**espect of Relationship to Head, Mother Tongue and Other Languages** Known, Occupation, Nature of Industry, Trade or Service, Birth Place/Place of last residence, and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) etc.

Decennial Census Exercise

- The **decennial census exercise** has been postponed till September, at least, as the government informed States that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries has been extended till June 30.
- The first phase of Census 2021 - the **House listing and Housing Census along with updating the National Population Register (NPR)** were scheduled to be held from April-September 2020 but were postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The second phase and the main phase of the decennial census exercise - the **population enumeration** - were to be concluded by March 5, 2021.
- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner,** India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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XPOSAT MISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci Tech)

XPOSAT

India's first polarimetry mission to study dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is collaborating with the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru to build an X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) that is scheduled to be launched later this year.

Recently, ISRO chairman S Somanath urged Indian scientific institutions to identify talented students and take steps to motivate them in effectively using data emerging from science-based space missions. He mentioned the XPoSat in this regard.

XPoSat mission

According to ISRO, "XPoSat will study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions." It has been billed as India's first, and the world's second polarimetry mission that is meant to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions. The other such major mission is NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) that was launched in 2021.

"IXPE carries three state-of-the-art space telescopes. Each of the three identical telescopes hosts one light-weight X-ray mirror and one detector unit. These will help observe polarised X-rays from neutron stars and supermassive black holes. By measuring the polarisation of these X-rays, we can study where the light came from and understand the geometry and inner workings of the light source," *The Indian Express* reported in an explainer published at the time.

XPoSat's payloads

The spacecraft will carry two scientific payloads to a low Earth orbit. The primary payload POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) will measure the polarimetry parameters (degree and angle of polarisation).

The payload is being developed by RRI in collaboration with ISRO's U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bengaluru. POLIX is expected to observe about 40 bright astronomical sources of different categories during the planned lifetime of XPoSat mission of about 5 years. This is the first payload in the medium X-ray energy band dedicated for polarimetry measurements.

The XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) payload will give spectroscopic information (on how light is absorbed and emitted by objects). It would observe several types of sources, such as X-ray pulsars, blackhole binaries, low-magnetic field neutron star, etc.

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Context: The Indian Space Research Organisation is collaborating with the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, an autonomous research institute, to build the **X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** that is scheduled to be launched later this year.

XPoSat mission

- XPoSat will **study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources** in extreme conditions.
- It has been billed as **India's first, and only the world's second polarimetry mission** that is meant to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.
- The other such major mission is NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) that was launched in 2021.
- IXPE carries **three state-of-the-art space telescopes**.
- Each of the three identical telescopes hosts one light-weight X-ray mirror and one detector unit.
- These will help **observe polarized X-rays** from neutron stars and supermassive black holes.
- By **measuring the polarisation** of these X-rays, we can study where the light came from and understand the geometry and inner workings of the light source.

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