



# DAILY PT POINTERS

9<sup>th</sup> February, 2024



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 14\_IR(GSII)

## Centre to scrap Free Movement Regime with Myanmar, says Shah

Home Ministry recommends immediate suspension of FMR, which allows people residing close to India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other's territory; Shah says move will protect demographic structure of the northeastern States



- India and Myanmar share an unfenced 1,643-km-long border.
- A 1968 government notification limited the free movement of people up to 40 km on either side of the border, which was further reduced to 16 km in 2004. The FMR's provisions were last revised in 2016.
- In its 2011-12 annual report, the Home Ministry observed that the FMR makes the international border extremely porous, and the hilly and inhospitable terrain provides cover to the activities of various Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs).
- The India-Myanmar border passes through the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 14-IR(GSII)

*'India's Kaladan project in Myanmar in limbo as rebels control key town'*



- India's flagship connectivity projects that was aimed at enhancing road and maritime connection with Southeast Asia has faced a definite setback after an important town in Myanmar was captured recently by a rebel group,
- KMTTP was aimed at connecting the port of Kolkata with the port of Sittwe in Rakhine or Arakan State which would then be connected to Mizoram by road and the Kaladan river which flows by Paletwa.



## The Hindu: Economy(GSIII)-Page 15

### Cabinet approves new fisheries scheme

THE HINDU BUREAU  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana, a sub scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, for the micro and small enterprises operating in the fisheries sector.

It is expected to have investment of ₹6,000 crore in the next four years.

The meet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the extension of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund till 2026.

Extension of the fund, the Centre said, would intensify development of various infrastructure such as fishing harbours, fish landing centres, ice plants, cold storage, and fish transport facilities.

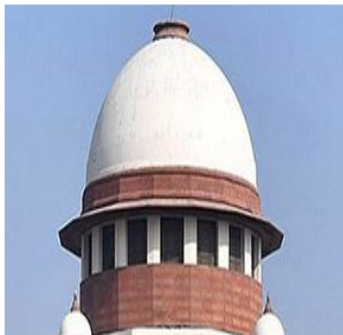
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**The Hindu: Polity and Governance (GSII)-Page 16**

**Preferential treatment of most backward is not tinkering with Presidential list: SC**



- The Supreme Court said the decision by individual States to provide preferential allotment of reservation benefits to the most backward groups or “the untouchables among the untouchables” will not amount to tinkering with the power of Parliament to include or exclude Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes from the Presidential list.
- Articles 341 and 342 empower the President to draw up a list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively. The inclusion or exclusion of any caste, race, or tribe from the Presidential list is done by Parliament through legislation.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: Governance(GSII)/Environment(GSIII)

## 'Minor' water pollution offences to be decriminalised

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Water Amendment (Pollution and Prevention) Bill, 2024.

The Bill makes important changes to the Water (Pollution and Prevention) Act, 1974, such as decriminalising certain violations deemed "minor" and replaces for the most part the penalties of imprisonment with fines ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹15 lakh.

The amended version would apply to Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the Union Territories.

It also empowers the Centre to frame rules to select the chairpersons of State pollution control boards and frame guidelines that States can follow for the grant, refusal or cancellation of consent by any State Board for establishing industries and new operating processes.

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The Hindu: Governance(GSII)/Economy(GSIII)

## Launch next phase of Smart Cities Mission: panel

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee has emphasised the need to launch the next phase of the Centre's flagship Smart Cities Mission with a thrust on Tier-2 cities located within 100 km of State capitals.

The Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs also cautioned that digital infrastructure created under the mission could be misused and hence there was a need to ensure right to privacy and securing of digital platforms from cyber attacks.

The report on "Smart Cities Mission: An Evaluation" was presented in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

In its report, it said that the experience and expertise gained by Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) in urban development initiatives must be leveraged for the purpose.

- Government of India launched Smart Cities Mission (SCM) on 25 June 2015. 100 Smart Cities have been selected through 4 rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018.
- The objective of SCM is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and decent quality of life to their citizens, clean and sustainable environment through application of smart solutions. The idea is to look at compact areas, create replicable models which will act as lighthouses for other areas in the same city/other aspiring cities.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## The Hindu: Economy(GSIII)

**MPC holds rates; sees FY25 inflation easing to 4.5%, growth at 7%**

MPC holds policy repo rate at 6.5%, to stay focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure inflation progressively aligns to 4% target

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept repo rates unchanged at 6.5% and is focused on the withdrawal of accommodation,
- . It projects real GDP growth of 7 percent for FY'25 with risks evenly balanced.

GDP growth for FY25 projected at 7%, lower than 7.3% this fiscal

Retail inflation to average 5.4% this fiscal, to come down to 4.5% in FY25



The Hindu:Health(GSII)-Page 24

## Kyasanur Forest Disease: the assault of the tick



- Kyasanur Forest disease (KFD) is caused by Kyasanur Forest disease virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family Flaviviridae. KFDV was identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka (formerly Mysore) State
- The disease was first noticed in the Kysanur Forest area of Sorab Taluk in Shivamogga district in 1956, and was named after the region. It is also known as monkey fever, as monkeys also get infected. In fact, the death of a monkey serves as a warning of a KFD outbreak. The scientists concluded that the virus must have been present in the forests of Malnad region. It became active due to ecological changes.
- The disease spreads through ticks. Primates that come in contact with infective ticks contract the disease. Human beings who visit the same forest area can contract the disease. Normally, the transmission begins from late November to June. It peaks between December and March, according to studies. A blood test is done to identify if someone has KFD.

## Indian Express:Economy(GSIII)-Page 16

### What white paper says—and doesn't

The govt has come out with a white paper on the Indian economy, comparing its performance over 10 years with the UPA decade. It has attacked its predecessor for 'abandoning reforms' and 'policy paralysis'

UDIT MISRA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman presented a "white paper" on the Indian economy in Parliament Thursday. The document, which has been prepared by the Ministry of Finance, essentially compares the 10-year record of economic governance under the Congress-led UPA governments (between 2004-05 and 2013-14) with the 10-year record of the BJP-led NDA governments (between 2014-15 and 2023-24).

#### What is a white paper, and is this one?

A white paper typically provides information about a specific issue. A government may present a white paper — say, on black money — to make people aware of the nature and scope of the problem and the possible ways to resolve it.

In that sense, what was presented in Parliament is not exactly a white paper, because it is a comparison between the record of two governments on a variety of economic parameters. A comprehensive review of the state of the Indian economy as things stood in 2014, when the incumbent government

**UPA AND NDA YEARS: WHAT SOME CRUCIAL NUMBERS SAY**

Financial Year	Nominal GDP growth rate (%)	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Fiscal Deficit*	UPA YEARS				NDA YEARS			
				Financial Year	Nominal GDP growth rate (%)	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Fiscal Deficit*	Financial Year	Nominal GDP growth rate (%)	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Fiscal Deficit*
2004-05	14.10	7.92	3.95	2014-15	10.99	7.41	4.10				
2005-06	13.99	7.92	4.03	2015-16	10.46	8	3.87				
2006-07	17.14	8.06	3.35	2016-17	11.76	8.26	3.48				
2007-08	15.14	7.66	2.59	2017-18	11.03	6.8	3.46				
2008-09	12.56	3.09	6.11	2018-19	10.59	6.45	3.44				
2009-10	15.46	7.86	6.57	2019-20	6.37	3.87	4.64				
2010-11	19.92	8.5	4.89	2020-21	-1.36	-5.83	9.17				
2011-12	14.43	5.24	5.91	2021-22	18.36	9.05	6.75				
2012-13	13.82	5.46	4.93	2022-23	16.06	7.24	6.38				
2013-14	12.97	6.39	4.48	2023-24	8.87	7.32	5.85				
AVERAGE OF UPA YEARS				AVERAGE OF NDA YEARS							
2004-2014	14.95	6.80	4.7	2014-2024	10.31	5.9	5.1				

Source: MoSPI and CMIE, \*(as a % of Nominal GDP)

Narendra Modi's speech on last year's Independence Day "to commit ourselves to... as a per cent of total expenditure (excluding interest payments) slashed from 21 per cent... is so because a variety of factors affect... not just the economy but also business man...

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