

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Polity and Governance(GSII)/Infrastructure (GSIII)Page 5

An overview of the AMRUT scheme

What was the purpose of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation? What was the revenue set aside for the scheme? What has been its progress so far? What are the various shortcomings and how should they be addressed?

EXPLAINER

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far: Around 30% of India's population is living in cities and by 2047 it will be more than 50%. The World Bank estimates that around \$840 billion is required to fund the bare minimum urban infrastructure over the next 15 years. The AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) scheme was a flagship programme launched by the NDA-1 government in June 2015, with its 2.0 version launched on October 1, 2021.

What is the AMRUT scheme? Some of the challenges in infrastructure development with respect to water, mobility, and pollution were to be met by this scheme with some financial assistance from the Centre and the rest of the share mobilised by both States and respective cities. The mission was drawn to cover 500 cities and towns with a population of over one lakh with notified municipalities. The purpose of the AMRUT mission was to (i) ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection (ii) increase the value of cities by developing greenery and well-maintained open spaces such as parks and (iii) reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorised transport. The total outlay for AMRUT was ₹50,000 crore for five years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20.

AMRUT 2.0 was aimed at making cities 'water secure' and providing functional water tap connections to all households in all statutory towns. Ambitious targets were set up such as providing 100% sewerage management in 500 AMRUT cities. The total outlay for AMRUT 2.0 is ₹2,99,000 crore, with the Central outlay being ₹5,760 crore for five years, and the rest of the amount to be mobilised by the



At work: The Lion Park being renovated under AMRUT 2 by KochiKode Corporation in 2023. (IANS/PTI)

States and cities.

How much money has been utilised? The AMRUT dashboard shows that as of May 19, 2024, a sum of ₹53,357 crore has been dispensed so far. This amount has been utilised to provide a total of 38,86,237 tap connections, and 37,49,467 sewerage connections. A total of 2,411 parks have been developed, and 62,78,571 LED lights have been replaced. These works include the contributions made by States and cities.

What is the reality? It is estimated that about 2,00,000 people die every year due to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene. In 2016, the disease burden due to unsafe water and sanitation per person was 40 times higher in India than in China. This has not

continue to worsen. A National Clean Air Programme was launched by the central government in 2015, as AMRUT 2.0 focused only on water and sewerage and because the air quality concerns of AMRUT 1.0 were far from addressed.

What went wrong? The basic fundamental of the scheme was erroneously constructed. Instead of a holistic approach, it took on a project-oriented attitude. Furthermore, AMRUT was made for cities with no participation from the cities. It was quite mechanical in design, with hardly any organic participation of the elected city governments, and driven by mostly private interests. The project was owned by bureaucrats, parasitals, and large technology-based companies. For example, in the governance architecture, the apex committee is headed by the secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA) and all the members are non-elected. Similarly, the State level high powered committee is headed by the chief secretary with a private nexus of consultants and professionals. Peoples' representatives are completely missing, in violation of the 74th constitutional amendment.

Moreover, water management in cities most factor in climate and rainfall patterns of the area and existing infrastructure of combined sewers. It is no big surprise that most of the sewage treatment plants are designed in such a way that the travel distance of average faecal matter is more than the average commute of a worker to work! Since the drivers are large private players and builders, real estate development has become a proxy for urban planning—disappearance of water bodies and lakes, disrupted storm water flows, and absence of storm water drainage is very common.

The scheme needs nature based solutions and a comprehensive methodology with a people-centric approach and empowering local bodies. *Author is former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.*

THE GIST

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Why does instability and chaos persist in Haiti?

Did the resignation of former Prime Minister Ariel Henry stop gang violence in the region?

Dhriti Mukherjee

The story so far:

Following a three-month forced shutdown, Haiti's main international airport in Port-au-Prince reopened, sparking hopes for shipment of essential products. However, gang violence persists in the capital, though most of the gangs' demands have been addressed.

Meanwhile, after months of delay due to legal obstacles and violence, an advance team of the Kenyan special forces police landed in Haiti to combat the instability.

What is being done for stability?

After Prime Minister Ariel Henry's resignation on April 24, the formation of a Council with seven members was the first major development. The Council has been tasked with restoring order in Haiti, setting the agenda of a new Cabinet, forming a national security council, and appointing an electoral commission to help conduct polls. It enjoys the backing

of the Caribbean countries and the U.S. Caricom, a Caribbean trade bloc which helped form the council, said that the installation of the "politically inclusive council signals the possibility of a new beginning for Haiti." While Finance Minister Michel Patrick Boisvert was appointed as interim Prime Minister, on April 30, former Minister Fritz Bélizaire was chosen for the post by the Council.

What is the situation at present?

Though there is a Council, there is also a divide. During its first task of choosing a Prime Minister, four of the seven voting members chose Mr. Bélizaire. This decision to appoint the little-known official was taken without consulting the rest of the council or holding a formal vote. This divide has reportedly strengthened worries of the Council using its position to further its own corrupt needs, following a pattern consistent with previous political officials in Haiti.

Moreover, gang violence continues. The insufficiently armed national police

are still unable to counter the violence. Gang violence has become a part of daily life in Haiti over the last two decades, enabled by a weakened security apparatus, lack of effective law enforcement and widespread impunity. In the first three months of 2024, as per UN estimates, more than one person was killed due to gang violence every hour.

Why does gang violence continue?

One of the driving forces behind gang violence was the continued control exercised by Mr. Henry, and it was expected that his resignation would allow for a semblance of peace and stability. However, not only has the violence continued (though there has been a reduction), there are new concerns.

In May, UNICEF's Representative in Haiti, Bruno Maes, noted that the "health system is on the verge of collapse" as it is faced with "violence, mass displacement, dangerous epidemic and increasing malnutrition." Six out of 10 hospitals that are operational in the country are barely

managing to function, and the biggest problem currently is the "strangling of supply chains." About 1.6 million of the 4.4 million in Haiti face emergency levels of food insecurity, and the expected arrival of the monsoons will bring with it waterborne diseases such as cholera.

What is next for Haiti?

There are three specific challenges for Haiti. First, the divide within the transitional Council underscores the inherently fragile political landscape of the country. A rocky start may set the tone for the rest of its decisions and the country's faith in it. Second, the persistent threat posed by armed gangs continues to loom large over Haiti, perpetuating a cycle of violence and insecurity that hampers efforts to restore law and order. Gangs have warned of more violence if they are not given a seat at the table with the Council, and if their demand for amnesty for their crimes is not granted.

Third, the deployment of a UN-backed security mission, comprised of Kenyan police forces, has sparked controversy and raised concerns about potential violation of human rights. While the mission aims to bolster efforts to combat gang violence and restore stability, there are fears that it may inadvertently exacerbate tensions and contribute to human rights abuses.

Dhriti Mukherjee is a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

THE GIST

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- Haiti has been witnessing violence for over two years since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.
 - India launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its nationals from Haiti.

About Haiti

Capital: Port-au-Prince

Haiti, is a country on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea, east of Cuba and Jamaica, and south of The Bahamas.



The Hindu- Polity and Governance(GSII)-Page 10

Citizenship granted under the CAA to applicants in 3 States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) were granted to some people in West Bengal, Uttarakhand, and Haryana, the Union Home Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Ministry did not specify the number of people who acquired citizenship through the CAA in the three States. However, a source said that at least eight Hindu migrants from Bangladesh were granted citizenship in West Bengal.

"The process of granting citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 has now commenced in the State of West Bengal, where the first set of applications from the State was today granted citizenship by the Empowered Committee, West Bengal," the Ministry said in a statement.

It added that the Empowered Committees in Ha-

The country's first set of certificates under CAA was granted to Pakistani Hindus in Delhi

ryana and Uttarakhand have also granted citizenship under CAA to the first set of applicants.

Earlier, the country's first set of certificates under the CAA was granted to Pakistani Hindus in Delhi on May 15.

The MHA had notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 on March 11, paving the way for the implementation of the Act, which was passed by Parliament in December 2019.

The CAA, which will potentially benefit over 2.5 crore people from the Muzra and Namasudra communities in West Bengal has been opposed by the State's Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, on the grounds that it is discriminatory and communal.

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- The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 (CAA) was enacted in December 2019.
- Under this Act, the government decided to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.
- These include Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians.

It reduces the period to qualify for citizenship from existing 11 years to 5 years.

The Hindu-Defense(GSIII) –Page 12



RudraM-II air-to-surface missile flight test successful

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday successfully flight-tested the indigenously-developed RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from a Su-30 MKI jet off Odisha coast. “The flight-test met all the trial objectives, validating the propulsion system and control & guidance algorithm,” DRDO said in a statement. The performance of the missile has been validated from the flight data captured by range tracking instruments, it added. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the successful test consolidated the role of RudraM-II as a force multiplier to the Indian armed forces.

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- RudraM-II is an indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system meant for Air-to-Surface role to neutralise many types of enemy assets.
- A number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by various DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile system.

The Hindu-GS1(Culture)Page 12

Kumartuli's sculptors of the divine blase about heat and drama of polls

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

The Kolkata North Lok Sabha constituency is home to some of the oldest areas of the metropolis, including Kumartuli, known globally for its age-old tradition of modelling clay idols, especially of Goddess Durga for Navaratri. As the constituency goes to the polls on Saturday, amid a surfeit of electoral promises, the idol sculptors of Kumartuli are disgruntled by long-standing infrastructure woes.

"When it rains, water drips through our roofs. The streets get waterlogged," says Rajat Pal (name changed), 50, a third-generation sculptor.

On Tuesday, a day after the city experienced the devastating aftermath of Cyclone Remal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted a roadshow in support of Tapas Roy, BJP candidate in the constituency. Contesting against him is the incumbent Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandopadhyay, and



Struggling artists: A sculptor busy at work, making miniature idols of Goddess Durga at Kumartuli in Kolkata. FILE PHOTO

Pradip Bhattacharya of the Congress.

"Nobody cares what happens to the idol sculptors of Kumartuli. No one is talking about it," Mr. Pal said.

The working and living conditions of Kumartuli have been the bane of the sculptors for as long as he can remember. "We are sculpting idols of gods and goddesses, and yet our work environment is dirty, dingy, and damaged," he said.

Tapan Ghosh, who has been working in Kumartuli for nearly a decade, said

even the most spacious workshops are too cramped. Many are not tall enough to accommodate the larger idols, compelling the sculptors to take them out on the streets, crowding the already-cramped lanes. "Even taking the finished idols out of the workshop and safely loading them on trucks is a struggle," Mr. Ghosh said.

"The Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee government had planned to move the clay-modelling workshops out of Kumartuli and into well-built, spacious studios in Bagbazaar in North Kolka-

ta," Babu Paul, secretary of the Kumartuli Mritshilpo Sanskritik Samiti, said.

Perennial debt

Poverty among artisan families has been worsening over the past decade. With the rising costs of raw materials, most sculptors are perennially in debt. "We start work with the help of private loans," Mr. Paul said. "Any profits we make are spent paying off the loan with interest. What are we taking home for our families?"

In 2022, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) included Durga Puja on its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list. Despite widespread celebrations over this recognition, it did little towards improving the lives of Kumartuli's sculptors. "I am not happy with the UNESCO tag. The world now knows Kumartuli, but how has it made my life better as a sculptor?" Mr. Paul said. "Most of us barely make ends meet."

- Kumartuli is a popular locality in Kolkata that is known for its traditionally potter quarters.
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Indian Express :Page 13_GS 3-Economy

Global unemployment to slightly fall to 4.9% in 2024, says ILO

REUTERS
NEW YORK, MAY 29

THE GLOBAL unemployment rate is expected to fall slightly to 4.9 per cent this year from 5.0 per cent in 2023, even as inequalities in labour markets persist, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said on Wednesday.

The ILO, a United Nations agency, in January estimated unemployment to edge up to 5.2 per cent due to an expected rise in joblessness in advanced economies. The revision is mainly due to lower-than-expected unemployment rates in China, India, and high-income countries reported so far this year, the agency said.

"China's growth wasn't quite as poor as had been anticipated late last year as the Chinese authorities have once again managed to keep the ball rolling a little longer there," said Richard de Chazal, macro analyst at investment banking group William Blair.

The downward trend for joblessness is expected to flatten in 2025, with unemployment re-

maining at 4.9 per cent, the report said. Global economic growth has been slightly more robust than expected in the first months of 2024, particularly in the United States, while inflation has been decreasing, giving a breather to household incomes.

"The lagged effects of higher interest rates have been a slower burn, in large part because both the corporate sector and the household sector locked in lower rates and have been much less sensitive to Federal Reserve's tightening this time", de Chazal added. The International Monetary Fund in April raised its 2024 forecasts for global growth to 3.2 per cent from the 3.1 per cent estimated in January, largely due to an improvement in the US outlook.

"This stabilisation in the macroeconomic environment is translating into a relatively stable labour market outlook," the ILO said. But in the medium term the situation remains uncertain due to the monetary and fiscal policy adjustments expected globally with restrictive macroeconomic policies having a delayed effect on the labour market, it added.

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO), which once predicted that unemployment would increase to 5.2 per cent this year from 5 per cent in 2023, now projects a global unemployment rate of 4.9 per cent in 2024. "Inequalities in labour markets persist, with women in low-income countries particularly affected,"
- The International Monetary Fund in April raised its 2024 forecasts for global growth to 3.2% from the 3.1% estimated in January, largely due to an improvement in the U.S. outlook.
- the ILO cautioned that "inequalities in labour markets persist, with women in low-income countries particularly affected."
- The report found that 183 million people meet the definition of unemployed, meaning they are actively looking for work and are immediately available. But the number of people without a job who wanted to work stood at 402 million.

Indian Express :Page 13_GS 3-Economy

Global trade disruptions leading to rising temperatures: UNCTAD

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

AMID THE ongoing Red Sea shipping crisis that has forced global shipping lines to take longer routes, United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said that global trade disruptions are causing ships to spend more days at sea causing a surge in the emission of greenhouse gases.

Since the attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebel forces began in the Suez Canal last year in October, hundreds of ships have been diverted around the Cape of Good Hope, adding about 10 to 15 days of voyage time resulting in higher emission. Reuters reported that more than 600 vessels have been rerouted since the attacks began in October.

A large container ship's journey from China to Germany, for example, emits 38 per cent more carbon dioxide, or 4.32 million kilograms, if it goes around Africa instead of through the Suez Canal, according to Reuters.

"Global disruptions are causing ships to spend more days at sea and emit higher levels of greenhouse gases, highlighting the growing unreliability and uncertainty of our interconnected



File

world. Against this backdrop, UN Trade and Development Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan spotlighted the urgent need to make global production and distribution networks more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient," the UNCTAD report said.

As per UNCTAD, transits passing the Suez Canal in the Red Sea area decreased by 42 per cent by February this year compared to its peak. The Suez Canal is one of the most important links for global trade and enables a more direct route for shipping between Europe and Asia.

Due to blocking of the crucial trade route, global shipping lines are forced to take longer routes via the Cape of Good Hope that

adds extra days, higher fuel consumption and higher greenhouse gas emission. By the first half of February 2024, 586 container vessels had been rerouted, while container tonnage crossing the canal fell by 82 per cent as per the UNCTAD.

The report said that for the first time, the world faces simultaneous disruptions in two major global maritime trade waterways, with far-reaching implications for inflation and food and energy security. Since November 2023, escalating attacks on ships in the Red Sea have been compounding disruptions in the Black Sea caused by the war in Ukraine and in the Panama Canal due to climate-induced droughts.

- Global disruptions are causing ships to spend more days at sea and emit higher levels of greenhouse gases, highlighting the growing unreliability and uncertainty of our interconnected world. As per UNCTAD, transits passing the Suez Canal in the Red Sea area decreased by 42 per cent by February this year compared to its peak. The Suez Canal is one of the most important links for global trade and enables a more direct route for shipping between Europe and Asia. Due to blocking of the crucial trade route, global shipping lines are forced to take longer routes via the Cape of Good Hope that adds extra days, higher fuel consumption and higher greenhouse gas emission. The report said that for the first time, the world faces simultaneous disruptions in two major global maritime trade waterways, with far-reaching implications for inflation and food and energy security. Since November 2023, escalating attacks on ships in the Red Sea have been compounding disruptions in the Black Sea caused by the war in Ukraine and in the Panama Canal due to climate-induced droughts.

PIB :GS 3-Defense

Ministry of Defence

INDIAN ARMY COMMEMORATES 76TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

Posted On: 29 MAY 2024 2:45PM by PIB Delhi

The Indian Army commemorated the 76th International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, today, by paying homage to the fallen comrades by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial, New Delhi. Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (Information Systems & Coordination), officials of United Nations Organisation, Staff from Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs laid wreaths. This is the day when in 1948 the first UN Peacekeeping Mission, “UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)” began operations in Palestine.

Each year on this day, the UN and countries across the globe pay rich tributes to the professionalism, dedication and courage of men and women who have served/ are serving in UN Peacekeeping Missions. This day also honours the memory of sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives for the cause of peace.

India has a rich legacy of contribution to UN Peacekeepers operations and is one of the largest contributors of troops. India has contributed services of approximately 2,87,000 troops to peacekeeping missions. Indian Army personnel have operated under difficult, challenging terrain and operational conditions and have displayed exemplary courage and valour, to the extent of making the supreme sacrifice to uphold the UN mandates. It is noteworthy that 160 Indian Army soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice to ensure peace across the globe. Presently, Indian Armed Forces are deployed across nine countries in peacekeeping missions, namely UNDOF, UNIFIL, UNTSO, UNFICYP, MONUSCO, UNMISS, UNIFSA, MINUSCA and MINURSO.

India has been at the forefront of capacity development for the UN, host nations and partner nations. India has always strived to support UN initiatives by providing agile and flexible units, peacekeeper training, logistic support, enhancing gender parity and contributing to technological enhancements. India has provided active support for host nation capacity development by providing training, infrastructure development and Civil Military Coordination (CIMIC) activities. In addition, Veterinary Detachments of the Indian Army have displayed noteworthy performance in various UN Missions. Efforts made to bring a significant improvement in the health of livestock in Abyei by Lieutenant Colonel Gurpreet Singh Bali, Commander of the Veterinary Detachment in Sudan were appreciated by the UN Headquarters.

The Indian Army has established a Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi to impart niche training in peacekeeping operations. This Centre trains more than 12,000 troops every year. CUNPK undertakes a multitude of activities from contingent training to national and international courses for potential peacekeepers and trainers.

It also hosts foreign delegations as part of sharing best practices. The Centre regularly dispatches Mobile Training Teams to Friendly Foreign Countries as part of capacity

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- The Indian Army has established a Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi to impart niche training in peacekeeping operations. This Centre trains more than 12,000 troops every year
- Major Radhika Sen has been selected to be awarded with “Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2023” by the UN Headquarters, which is a testament to the positive contribution of the Indian Women in the UN peacekeeping initiatives.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

AIR :GS 2-IR

India Assumes Chair Of Colombo Process For 2024-26



India assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception. India looks to promote safe, orderly and legal migration.

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Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and South East Asia. It serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on overseas employment.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

AIR :GS 2-IR

4th Round Of India-Bangladesh Consular Dialogue Held In New Delhi



- The 4th Round of India-Bangladesh Consular Dialogue was held on today in New Delhi.
- The two sides held wide-ranging discussions on mechanisms to strengthen coordination and cooperation on consular issues, visa matters, repatriation, MLAT and Extradition cases. The two sides also agreed to further strengthen the bilateral Revised Travel Arrangement to facilitate movement of nationals from both sides. Both sides reiterated their commitment to continue promoting people-to-people exchanges and agreed to hold the next Round of the Dialogue in Dhaka on a mutually convenient date.
- The India-Bangladesh Consular dialogue mechanism was instituted in 2017 with a purpose to strengthen people to people contacts by having a regular channel of communication on consular, visa and mutual legal assistance cooperation matters between India and Bangladesh.