

DAILY PT POINTERS

6th July, 2024



The Hindu : _GS 2/Governance –Page-1

A.P. in crisis, needs more than special category status: CM

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Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

In the national capital for the first time since becoming Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for the fourth time, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader N. Chandrababu Naidu said the State's economy has gone beyond the stage of even a special category status.

"We need to rebuild and reconstruct almost every institution in the State. It is far beyond just demanding a special category status," he told *The Hindu*.

His remarks assume significance since the NDA government has already ruled out special category status to any State. Mr. Naidu's stance rules out any immediate possibility of a conflict between the BJP and the TDP.

Comparing his earlier tenures in power, Mr. Naidu said this time he is start-



N. Chandrababu Naidu

ing his tenure "not from scratch but far below that".

"When I first came to power (1995), there was a lot of euphoria among our party cadres. We had our work cut out. In the second tenure (1999), we took forward from where we had left. My third tenure (2014) was tough because the State had suffered a setback after the bifurcation. But this tenure, by far, is the most difficult. We are starting not from scratch, but far below that," Mr. Naidu said.

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The concept of a special category state was first introduced in 1969 on the recommendations of the 5th Finance Commission sought to provide certain disadvantaged states with preferential treatment in the form of central assistance and tax breaks.

Special Category Status for plan assistance was granted in the past by the National Development Council to the States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration.

- These features included:
 - o hilly and difficult terrain;
 - o low population density and /or sizeable share of tribal population;
 - o strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries;
 - o economic and infrastructural backwardness and
 - o non-viable nature of state finances.

The Hindu :GS2-Health(Page -6)

African Swine Fever outbreak reported in Kerala's Thrissur district

About 310 pigs at Madakkathara panchayat in Thrissur set to culled

Updated - July 05, 2024 02:47 pm IST Published - July 05, 2024 02:39 pm IST - Thrissur

THE HINDU BUREAU



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- African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, whose mortality rate can reach 100%.
- It is not a danger to human health, but it has devastating effects on pig populations and the farming economy.
- The virus is highly resistant in the environment, meaning that it can survive on clothes, boots, wheels, and other materials. It can also survive in various pork products, such as ham, sausages or bacon. Therefore, human behaviours can play an important role in spreading this pig disease across borders if adequate measures are not taken.
- ASF continues to spread worldwide, threatening pig health and welfare. The disease has reached multiple countries across Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Pacific, affecting both domestic and wild pigs.

The Hindu: GS 3/Defense -Page 10

At ₹1.27 lakh crore, defence production registered a new high in 2023-24, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The country has recorded the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms in the financial year (FY) 2023-24, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

As per the data received from all Defence Public Sector undertakings (DPSUs), other PSUs manufacturing defence items, and private companies, the value of defence production in the country has gone up to a record-high figure of ₹1,26,887 crore, reflecting a growth of 16.7% over the defence production of the previous financial year, the Ministry said in a statement.

The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was ₹1,08,684 crore.

"Of the total value of production [VoP] in 2023-24, about 79.2% has been contributed by DPSUs/other PSUs and 20.8% by the private sector. The data show that in terms of absolute



FY24's figure reflected a growth of 16.7% over the previous year's defence production.

value, both DPSUs/PSUs and private sector have recorded a steady growth in defence production," the statement said.

The feat has been achieved due to the policy reforms, initiatives and ease of doing business brought in by the government in the past 10 years with a focus on attaining self-reliance, it stated.

New milestones

"The Make in India programme is crossing new milestones year after year

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Many congratulations to our industry including DPSUs, other PSUs manufacturing defence items and the private industry. The government is committed to creating more conducive regime for developing India as a leading global defence manufacturing hub," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on X.

In addition, the spiralling defence exports have contributed tremendously to the overall growth in indigenous defence production, the Ministry pointed out.

Defence exports touched a record-high of ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, reflecting a growth of 32.5% over the last fiscal when the figure was ₹15,920 crore.

In the past five years (since 2019-20), the value of defence production has been increasing steadily and has grown by over 60%, the statement added.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Geography (GSI)

Spitting fire



Spewing out: Craters erupt from Mount Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe, on Friday in Sicily, an island in Italy. Due to the eruption, the Catania airport announced its closure as ashes fell on the airspace and the surrounding area. AFP

Mount Etna

- It is an active stratovolcano volcano on the east coast of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Etna's peak is the highest in Italy south of the Alps, and it is Europe's largest and one of the most active volcanoes of the world
- Its summit has **five craters**, which are responsible for most of the volcano's eruptions.
- It lies above the convergent plate margin between the African Plate and the Eurasian Plate.
- It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2013

Indian Express –Space (GSIII)-Page 8

2 Gaganyaan astronauts to go to ISS aboard the Axiom-4 mission

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation has selected two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts to go to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) later this year, said officials familiar with the matter.

The mission will take place "no earlier than October 2024," according to the information available on NASA website. The astronauts will have to go to the United States ahead of the mission to train on the specifics of the ISS, said one of the officials quoted above. "While they have general training for space-fairing, much of their training in India focussed on Gaganyaan modules. They will have to be familiarised with ISS modules and protocols," the official said.

The Axiom-4 mission, which will take the Indian astronauts to the ISS, is the fourth private astronaut mission of NASA and a private US company Axiom

days. At the time when the Axiom-4 mission was announced last year, NASA in a release had said: "The Ax-4 crew members will train with NASA, international partners, and SpaceX for their flight. Axiom Space has contracted SpaceX as launch provider for transportation to and from the space station, and to familiarize the private astronauts with systems, procedures, and emergency preparedness for the Dragon spacecraft."

This has been in the works for a while. Last year, a joint statement by India and US during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US had said that NASA would provide advance training to Indian astronauts. Later the same year, NASA administrator Bill Nelson during his Delhi visit had said that the space agency will train an Indian astronaut for a mission to the International Space Station by 2024 end.

India's own human space-flight is unlikely to take place before 2025, with the first unmanned flight still to take off. The first flight carrying humans

The Axiom-4 mission, which will take the Indian astronauts to the ISS, is the fourth private astronaut mission of NASA and a private US company Axiom Space. The mission is expected to dock with the ISS for fourteen days.

Do you know?

The International Space Station is a large spacecraft in orbit around Earth. It serves as a home where crews of astronauts and cosmonauts live. The space station is also a unique science laboratory.

ISS was designed between 1984 and 1993. Elements of the station were in construction throughout the US, Canada, Japan, and Europe beginning in the late 1980s.

Indian Express –Economy (GSIII)-page 12

Balance of Payments

India's current account registered a surplus in Q4 of 2023-24. But current account surpluses are not necessarily good, nor is a deficit always bad. Here's how to read India's Balance of Payments



UDIT MISRA

LAST WEEK, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed that India's current account registered a surplus during the fourth quarter (Jan-Mar) of the 2023-24 financial year. This was the first time in 11 quarters that India had witnessed a surplus. Movements in the current account are closely monitored as they not only impact the exchange rate of the rupee and India's sovereign ratings, but also because they point to the overall health of the economy. However, the country's current account cannot be understood in isolation. The larger picture is provided by the so-called 'Balance of Payments' table alongside.

What is Balance of Payments?
The Balance of Payments (BoP) is essentially a ledger of a country's transactions with the rest of the world. As Indians trade and transact with the rest of the world, money flows in and out of the country. The BoP

Understanding India's Balance of Payments

(In \$ billion)	Q4 FY24	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21*
Current account*	6	-23.3 (0.7% of GDP)	-67 (2% of GDP)	24 (0.9% of GDP)	-39 (1% of GDP)
Trade of Goods	-51	-242	-265	-102	-268
Trade of Services (Invisibles)	57	218	198	126	229
Services	43	163	143	89	171
Transfers	29	106	101	74	106
Capital account*	25	86	59	63	77
Foreign investment	21	54	23	80	52
FDI	10	10	28	44	20
FII	11	44	-5	36	32
Loans	2	2	8	6	10
Banking Capital	7	41	21	-21	15
Other Capital	3	-10	7	-2	0
Balance of Payments*	31	64	-9	87	38
Change in Forex**	-31	-64	0	-87	

* A minus sign shows deficit; ** A minus sign shows increase in India's foreign exchange reserves; # Forecast by ICICI Securities
Source: RBI, ICICI Securities, Indian Express Research

Fig. 6.2: Components of Capital Account

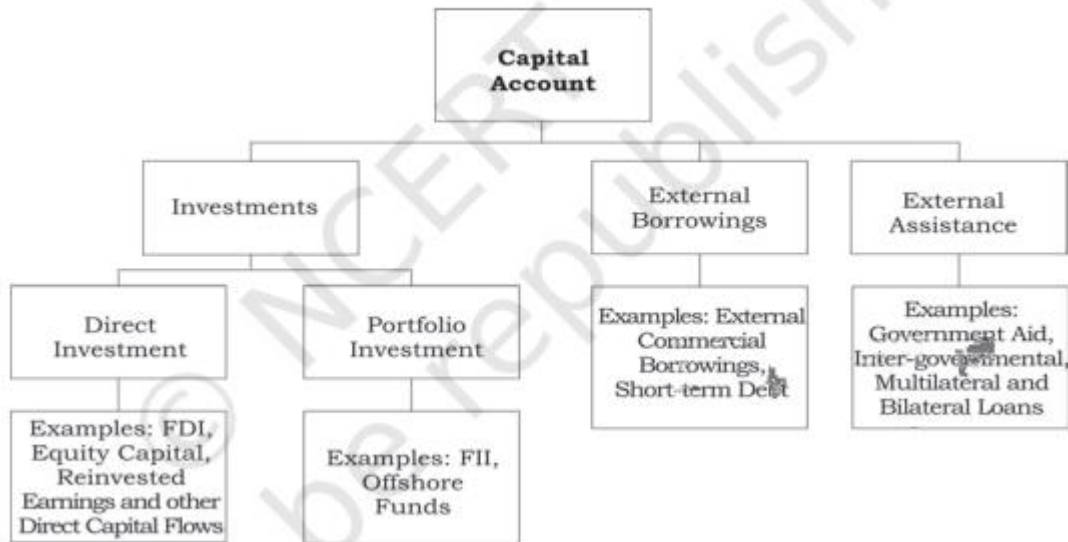
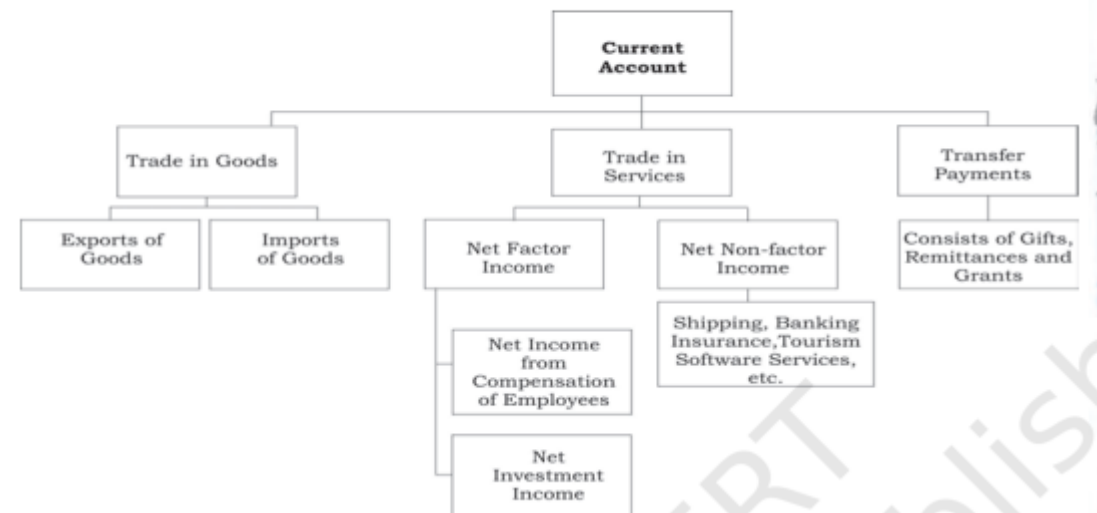


Fig. 6.1: Components of Current Account

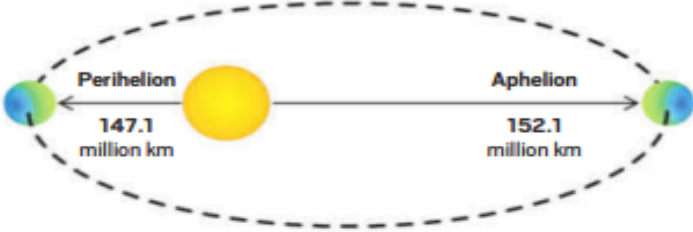


- The Balance of Payments (BoP) is essentially a ledger of a country's transactions with the rest of the world. As Indians trade and transact with the rest of the world, money flows in and out of the country. The BoP shows how much money (shown here in billions of US dollars) went out of the country and how much money came in. All the money coming into the country is marked positive and all the money going out is marked negative.

Indian Express–Space (GSIII)-Page 12

APHELION

The point farthest from the sun in the path of an orbiting celestial body such as a planet or asteroid



EARTH REACHES aphelion every July. This year it did so on Friday.

That Earth has an aphelion is a result of its orbit being elliptical, rather than circular. According to Kirby Runyon, a geologist at the Planetary Science Institute, all planets in the solar system travel in elongated circles around the Sun, rather than perfect ones. This is most likely true for worlds around other stars, too.

Behind elliptical orbits lies gravity. "All the planets tend to jostle each other around," pulling their orbits from perfect circles, Runyon said. "It's literally this chaotic tug of war between small amounts of gravitational influence that the planets have on each other."

Jupiter exerts the most influence because it is the most massive planet in our solar system, he added.

How much an orbit deviates from a perfect circle is measured by its eccentricity. The higher the eccentricity, the more elliptical the orbit. For some bodies in the solar system, eccentricity is quite pronounced: Mars has an eccentricity of 0.094. Pluto is even more eccentric at 0.15.

Does aphelion affect temperatures on Earth?

A common misconception is that Earth's varying distance from the Sun is what gives rise to the seasons.

We get 7% less sunlight at aphelion compared to what we are exposed to at perihelion, leading to slightly milder summers and winters in the Northern Hemisphere. But this effect is offset by Earth's tilt on its axis — at different points along its orbit the hemispheres slant either toward or away from the Sun.

What would happen if there were no aphelion?

If our planetary orbit were a perfect circle, the seasons' lengths would be exactly the same — right now, spring and summer are a few days longer than fall and winter in the Northern Hemisphere. But not much else would change.

"If, somehow, we snapped our magic fingers and Earth's orbit became more circular, it'd probably be fine," according to Runyon.

But if something made Earth's orbit

Aphelion : It is the point in the Earth's orbit when it is farthest from the sun (152.5 million km). Aphelion occurs on the 3rd or 4th of July

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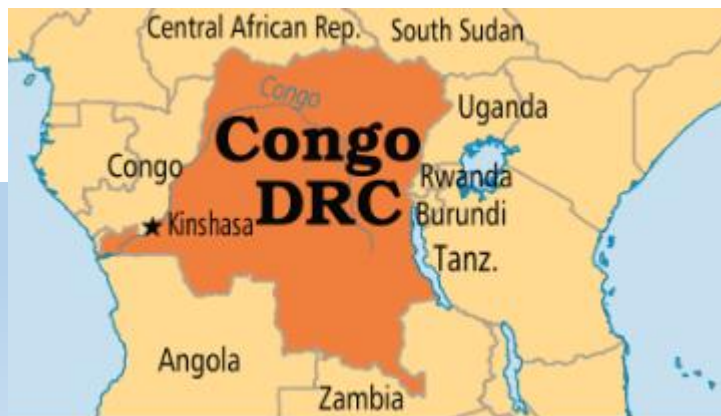
HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-IR (GSII)

Ministry of Defence

First Secretary-level meeting between Defence Ministries of India & Democratic Republic of Congo held in New Delhi

Focuses on identifying areas for collaboration to fulfill the potential of bilateral defence cooperation



- India enjoys cordial and friendly relations with the DRC. India was among the first countries to establish a diplomatic mission in Kinshasa in 1962. The visit is expected to open up new avenues for defence cooperation between the two countries.

DRC

It is a country located in Central Africa. It is the second-largest country in Africa by land area and has a diverse population with over 80 million people.

It is the fourth most-populated nation in Africa and the eighteenth most populated country in the world.

Kinshasa is the capital city, located on the Congo River, and is one of the largest urban areas in Africa.

Nine nations border the DRC: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

It is known for its rich natural resources, including minerals like copper, cobalt, and diamonds.