

DAILY PT POINTERS

18 September, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-IR(GSII)-Page 8

Power asymmetry between China and Russia

As supplies from Moscow's traditional partners have dried up under sanctions and Russia's domestic capacity remains stretched, China has stepped up help to Russia. Compared to 2021, when high-priority goods from China accounted for 32% of Russia's import needs, China's share soared to 65% in 2022.

WORLD ENERGY

Lead Article

A new power nexus?
 How the Russian invasion of Ukraine has changed the world energy map, and why that is being offset by a strategic trans-Atlantic alignment, is the subject of this special report. The story is a tale of two worlds: one where the world's largest economies are locked in a struggle for power, and another where the world's largest economies are locked in a struggle for energy.

THE GIST

China's trade with Russia (in \$ billion)

Russia's exports (in \$ billion)

China's export basket (in \$ billion)

Russia's imports (in \$ billion)

China's import basket (in \$ billion)

Russia's largest energy buyers

China's largest energy buyers

India's largest energy buyers

U.S. largest energy buyers

Japan's largest energy buyers

South Korea's largest energy buyers

Germany's largest energy buyers

France's largest energy buyers

UK's largest energy buyers

Italy's largest energy buyers

Spain's largest energy buyers

Canada's largest energy buyers

Brazil's largest energy buyers

Mexico's largest energy buyers

Argentina's largest energy buyers

Colombia's largest energy buyers

Venezuela's largest energy buyers

Iran's largest energy buyers

Saudi Arabia's largest energy buyers

UAE's largest energy buyers

Qatar's largest energy buyers

Kuwait's largest energy buyers

Oman's largest energy buyers

Yemen's largest energy buyers

Sudan's largest energy buyers

Egypt's largest energy buyers

Syria's largest energy buyers

Lebanon's largest energy buyers

Jordan's largest energy buyers

Iraq's largest energy buyers

Kazakhstan's largest energy buyers

Uzbekistan's largest energy buyers

Turkmenistan's largest energy buyers

Azerbaijan's largest energy buyers

Georgia's largest energy buyers

Armenia's largest energy buyers

Azerbaijan's largest energy buyers

Georgia's largest energy buyers

Armenia's largest energy buyers

...

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has strengthened the trans-Atlantic alignment against Russia and pushed Russia closer to China. Both Russia and China oppose the dominance of the dollar and the SWIFT system.
- The U.S. froze \$300 billion of Russia's forex reserves and imposed a SWIFT ban on Russian institutions, which has exacerbated Russia's need for alternative financial systems.
- Russia's isolation makes its need for financial alternatives more urgent compared to China's, giving China significant leverage.
- While Russia exports a significant portion of its goods to China, China's exports to Russia are more diversified, creating an economic imbalance.
- Concerns in India:** India is concerned about Russia's growing alignment with China, given that China is India's primary adversary. The central question is whether Russia has become a junior partner to China.

The Hindu –Geography(GSI)-Page 18

Rapa Nui genomes restore the real history of an old, troubled people

Studying Indigenous genomes offers invaluable insights into historical population dynamics, ecological adaptations, and the complex stories of human migration and survival. In many ways, the Rapa Nui genomes also show how genomic evidence can expose the derogatory myths that often surround Indigenous peoples.

By Heather Stapp and the editorial team

The volcanic island of Rapa Nui has long been shrouded in mystery. European sailors first arrived on its shores on Easter Sunday in 1722, giving it its colloquial name. It covers just 169 sq. km and is one of the most remote islands in the planet. Today, Rapa Nui is part of Chile and is officially a territory of the state.

Early Polynesian explorers are believed to have traversed thousands of kilometers open ocean to reach and settle the island, likely in living canoes before the arrival. The island's geography is arid and challenging for humans, its low-lying terrain is rocky with limited arable resources, poor soil quality, and low diversity of flora and fauna. Despite these challenges, three ancient likely established a unique society in order to survive their harsh environment. However, the island's ecology could still have been quite fertile, and genetic evidence only hints at the people's fate. These realizations are a stark reminder that the humans we study were not just the island, but also the ecological collapse and its people's demise.

But new evidence suggests this view is too narrow.

Arriving the game within
Rapa Nui is famous for its large statues (moai). They are shaped like large human heads and are scattered across the island, some reaching up to 10 feet tall and weighing 75 tonnes. They were carved in volcanic stone at quarries and then moved to their current locations across the island. Scholars believe the Rapa Nui built the moai between the 13th and 16th centuries and represented their revered ancestors.

The statues all face inland, towards the water. Over 300 moai have been found on the island, more than half of which were transported across considerable distances from the quarries. In a book 2004 Collapse, Jared Diamond proposed the population of Rapa Nui collapsed after over-exploiting resources. The idea quickly found wide resonance and became an example of the importance of sustainable living. But new evidence has called into question a facile evidence to support the hypothesis.

Restoring the soil
Scientists think the island's population fell declined by around 1,000 before



The Moai Toropika stone platform on Rapa Nui with all its 12 moai, restored to the 1800s, across a vast open landscape.

continued to be around 1,500-2,000. Due to the limited availability of fresh water and the abundance of rocks, which limited widespread agriculture, the natives are believed to have turned the patchy vegetation to improve soil productivity.

They were also expected to have used rock gardening, a.k.a., tillage mulching, a way to protect soil moisture by regulating the temperature.

Either way, before the European settlers made contact with the Rapa Nui, the latter practiced a limited agriculture to produce their food.

A long-awaited census
In July, researchers from Columbia University, Arizona University, and Brigham Young University, plus independent researchers from Rapa Nui, reported finding an AI model to identify locations in satellite images of the island where its inhabitants practised rock gardening. The researchers estimated rock gardening was practised in less than 1 sq. km of the land, less than previous estimates of 4-20 sq. km. Assuming the inhabitants exclusively cultivated sweet potatoes, the findings suggest they may have numbered fewer than 4,000 people. Genetic studies have in the past provided unique insights into the histories of Indigenous and ancestral populations around the world. In 2014, Current Biology journal published a paper in which researchers analysed 27

THE GIST

In the book Collapse, it was proposed that the population collapsed after over-exploiting resources. The idea found acceptance and became an example of the importance of sustainable living. But some scholars called into question the facile evidence provided.

According to a study, the Rapa Nui population grew and European arrived, followed by two catastrophic events. Chilean slave traders abducted a third of the population, a self-declared war, a volcanic eruption. Hundreds perished to one hundred or so.

The study concludes that the population of Rapa Nui didn't collapse because of their small island. In fact, they may have been living responsibly, only to be decimated by the arrival of other people.



Early Polynesian explorers are believed to have traversed thousands of kilometers of open ocean to reach and settle the island, likely in living canoes before the Europeans.

American ancestry, of around 95%. They also found the admixture with Native Americans happened before the 18th century. A significant European admixture followed when Europeans discovered and then colonised the island in the 18th century.

Two catastrophes
In the event of an ecological collapse or a population bottleneck, the genetic diversity of the population becomes so low or so become unable to withstand shocks like new diseases or disasters, the genomes would have been quite un-diverse in the population's descendants. Such "signatures" could in turn provide insights into bottlenecks in the history of that population.

Members of the Rapa Nui community refused an initial attempt by researchers to study their genomes. So, a team led by Victor Moreno-Bray at the University of Copenhagen turned to the remains of 15 Rapa Nui people secured at a museum in Paris. The remains were dated to have originated between 1670 and 1850 AD.

Findings on September 11 in Venice
According to the study, the Rapa Nui population developed a bottleneck around 1600 AD – confirming a previous finding that highlighted the same date and, crucially, ruling out a population decline in around 1000 BC. Instead, the study suggested the population steadily grew until the European settlers arrived, followed by two catastrophic events. Chilean slave traders abducted more than a third of the population, and then there was a large outbreak of smallpox. The local population soon dwindled to one hundred or so individuals as a result.

Restoring real histories
So there we have it: the pre-European Rapa Nui didn't over-exploit the resources of their small island. In fact, they may have been living responsibly, only to be decimated by the quality of other peoples. Studying Indigenous genomes offers invaluable insights into historical population dynamics, ecological adaptations, and the complex stories of human migration and survival. In many ways, the Rapa Nui genomes also show how genomic evidence can expose the derogatory myths that often surround Indigenous people and give them their real histories back.

The authors are senior researchers at Karolinska Institutet and adjunct professors at RW Aachen and the E.E. Rich Medical College, Paris.

Current research reveals that Rapa Nui's inhabitants did not overexploit their resources but rather faced external threats that decimated their population.

- Rapa Nui was first encountered by European sailors on Easter Sunday in 1722 and is now a territory of Chile, part of Polynesia. Early explorers likely settled the island centuries before European contact, overcoming its challenging geography, including rocky terrain and limited freshwater.
- The island is known for its large statues called moai, which were carved from volcanic stone and represent revered ancestors. Over 900 moai have been discovered, with many moved from distant quarries.
- The island's inhabitants practiced limited agriculture, including rock gardening to improve soil moisture and productivity, rather than widespread farming.
- The Rapa Nui population faced catastrophic reductions due to slave raids and smallpox outbreaks, dropping to around 100 individuals.

The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)

Windfall tax on crude oil cut to zero

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne with effect from September 18.

The tax is levied in the form of a special additional excise duty and is notified fortnightly based on average oil prices in two weeks.

The new rates are effective from September 18, an official notification said.

The last such revision took place effective August 31 when the windfall tax on crude petroleum was set at ₹1,850 per tonne.

- The government slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne with effect from September 18.
- The tax is levied in the form of a special additional excise duty and is notified fortnightly based on average oil prices in two weeks.
- The new rates are effective from September 18, an official notification said.
- The last such revision took place effective August 31 when the windfall tax on crude petroleum was set at ₹1,850 per tonne.

Indian Express-Economy(GSIII)-Page1

Steady growth in west, south states; decline in Bengal: EAC-PM report

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

WHILE WESTERN and southern states "performed notably better" than the rest of the country in over six decades from 1960-61 to 2023-24, with Maharashtra and Gujarat consistently showing strong economic performance, West Bengal recorded a "continuous decline", a working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released Tuesday showed.

Five southern states — Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh,

Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu — accounted for over 30 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023-24, but West Bengal saw its share shrink from the third-largest of 10.5 per cent in 1960-61 to only 5.6 per cent in 2023-24, the paper titled 'Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24' stated.

Relative per capita income remained the highest in Delhi, Telangana, Karnataka and Haryana, and the lowest in Bihar, the paper, authored by EAC-PM Member Sanjeev Sanyal and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- A recent report by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister highlights significant economic disparities among Indian states from 1960-61 to 2023-24:
- **Western and Southern States:** Maharashtra and Gujarat showed strong economic performance, while five southern states (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu) accounted for over 30% of India's GDP.
- **West Bengal's Decline:** West Bengal's GDP share shrank from 10.5% in 1960-61 to 5.6% in 2023-24, marking the largest decline among states.
- **Per Capita Income:** Delhi had the highest relative per capita income at 250.8% of the national average, while West Bengal's fell to 83.7%.
- . Sikkim and Goa became the richest states by per capita income, with Sikkim reaching 319% of the national average.

Indian Express-IR(GSII)-Page7

3-DAY VISIT BEGINS ON SEPT 21

PM to attend Quad summit, address Indian diaspora in US

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will be visiting the US from September 21 to 23, the Ministry of External Affairs said Tuesday. During the visit, the MEA said that the Prime Minister will take part in the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, which is being hosted by US President Joe Biden on September 21. "Following the request of the US side to host the Quad Summit this year, India has agreed to host the next Quad Summit in 2025," the MEA said.

At the Quad Summit, it said that the leaders will "review the progress achieved by the Quad over the last one year and set the agenda for the year ahead to assist the countries of the Indo-Pacific region in meeting their development goals and aspirations".

On September 23, the Prime

In the lead up to the Prime Minister's visit, Indian and American officials held the US-India 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue on Monday in Delhi during which they discussed matters related to the Indo-Pacific region, Ukraine and Gaza, the US State Department said.

The US delegation was co-chaired by Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asia Donald Lu and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Jedidiah P. Royal, the State Department said.

The Indian delegation was co-chaired by Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary for the Americas Nagaraj Naidu along with Indian Ministry of Defence Joint Secretary for International Cooperation Vishwesh Negi.

According to the State Department, the dialogue advanced shared priorities, includ-

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be visiting the United States of America during 21-23 September 2024. During the visit, Prime Minister will take part in the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, which is being hosted by the President of the United States of America, H.E. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on 21 September 2024. Following the request of the US side to host the Quad Summit this year, India has agreed to host the next Quad Summit in 2025.
- The Quad is a diplomatic partnership between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States committed to supporting an open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient.

Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page12

Nature of J&K Assembly

J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019 created a vastly different structure, in which the LG, appointed by Centre, has the most important role. What powers will the new Assembly of the Union Territory of J&K have?

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE FIRST phase of polling for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will take place on Wednesday. Given that this is the first election since 2019 when the constitutional compact of Jammu and Kashmir was altered by the abrogation of Article 370, the new Legislative Assembly will be substantially different from earlier Assemblies.

The constitutional changes of August 2019 took away the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir – thus, the new Assembly will be for a Union Territory (UT), not a state. What powers will the new Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir have?

J&K, Puducherry, Delhi

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 created two UTs – the UT of Ladakh without a legislature, and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature.

An amendment was made to the First Schedule of the Constitution, which lists all states and UTs, and to Article 3 of the Constitution, which deals with the “Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States”.

Article 239, which deals with the administration of Union Territories, states that “every union territory shall be administered by the President, acting, to such extent as he thinks fit, through an administrator...”.

Section 13 of the 2019 Act states that



Polling officials leave for their respective polling stations on the eve of first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, in Kishtwar district, Tuesday. //1

bureaucracy, has been a bone of contention between the state and the Centre. After the SC clarified that the LG cannot exercise independent discretion on subjects other than the three reserved subjects, the Centre enacted legislation in 2023, bringing services

years, however, the Centre’s lawmaking power was extended to cover several other subjects in the Union List (List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution).

The Reorganisation Act of 2019 created a vastly different structure, in which the LG has

Second, even for this, the 2019 Act has a key rider – Section 36, which deals with special provisions as to financial Bills. This provision states that a Bill or amendment “shall not be introduced into, or moved in, the Legislative Assembly except on the recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor”, i such Bill deals with, among other aspects “the amendment of the law with respect to any financial obligations undertaken or to be undertaken by the Government of the Union territory...”.

This provision has wide import since virtually every policy decision could create a financial obligation for the Union Territory.

Powers of the J&K LG

The 2019 Act also specifies the powers of the J&K LG. Section 53, which deals with the role of the Council of Ministers, states: “The Lieutenant Governor shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in his discretion in a matter

(i) which falls outside the purview of the powers conferred on the Legislative Assembly; or

(ii) in which he is required by or under any law to act in his discretion or to exercise any judicial functions; or

(iii) related to All India Services and Anti-Corruption Bureau.”

This means that apart from public order and police, the bureaucracy and the anti-corruption bureau will also be under the LG’s control.

The provision also says that whenever “any question arises whether any matter i

- Elections for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will begin on Wednesday, marking the first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, established the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature, while Ladakh was created without one.
- The Assembly can legislate on matters from the State List, except “Public Order” and “Police.”
- The LG oversees the bureaucracy and the Anti-Corruption Bureau, in addition to public order and police.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh briefs media today on the important decisions and achievements of Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in 100 days of the third term of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Fisheries and aquaculture are an important source of food, nutrition, employment, income and foreign exchange: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh

Fisheries and aquaculture is a promising sector that provides livelihood and employment opportunities to about 3 crore fishers and fish farmers: Shri Singh

India is the 2nd largest fish producing country with around 8% share in global fish production: Union Minister

Seafood exports stood at Rs 30,213 crore in 2013-14, which has increased to Rs 60,523.89 crore during 2023-24, an increase of 100%: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh

Shrimp exports stood at Rs.19,368 crore in 2013-14, which has increased to Rs 40,013.54 crore in 2023-24 with an increase of about 107%: Shri Singh

Contribution of livestock in total agriculture and allied sector GVA has increased from 24.36 per cent in 2014-15 to 30.22% in 2022-23: Union Minister

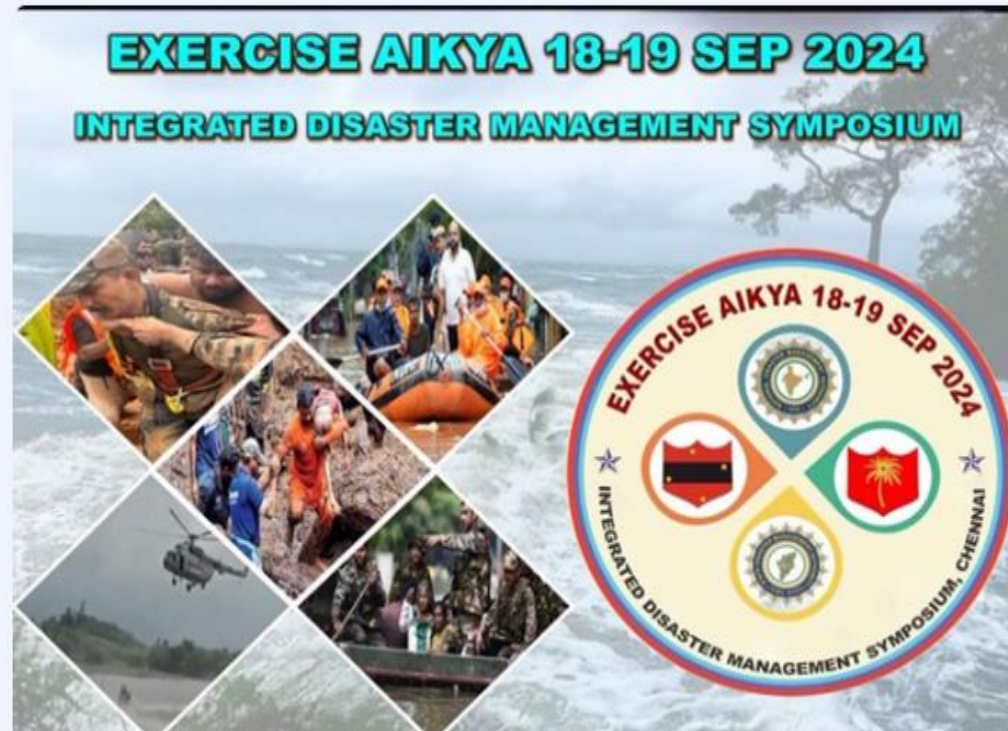
Value of milk output has increased significantly by 125% from Rs. 4.96 lakh Cr in 2014-15 to Rs. 11.16 lakh Cr in 2022-23: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, provided an overview of the significant achievements and decisions made by the Ministry in the first 100 days of the third term of Prime Minister Modi. Key highlights include:
- **Fisheries Sector Growth:** India is the second-largest fish producer globally, contributing 8% to global production. The sector has transformed significantly, providing livelihoods to approximately 3 crore individuals.
- **Investment Initiatives:** Over the past decade, the government has invested ₹38,572 crore in fisheries, with the flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aiming for ₹20,050 crore in investments. A total of ₹20,687.28 crore in projects has been approved under PMMSY since 2020.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Disaster Management (GSIII)

National Symposium 'Exercise AIKYA' On Disaster Management To Begin In Chennai



- A two-day national symposium of the National Disaster Management Authority and the Army Southern Command entitled Exercise AIKYA will begin in Chennai tomorrow.
- The primary aim of the exercise is to enhance disaster preparedness and foster robust collaboration among key stakeholders.
- The exercise will feature simulations, technology discussions and expert insights into various roles of disaster management.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GSII)

India & Uruguay Hold 6th Round Of Foreign Office Consultations

6th India-Uruguay Foreign Office Consultations

September 17, 2024

The 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Uruguay was held on 16 September 2024 in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Uruguay delegation was led by Mr. Nicolas Albertoni, Vice Foreign Minister of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. The last round of consultations took place in March 2023 in New Delhi.

2. Both sides reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and new areas of cooperation covering Trade and investment, Information & Communication technology, Railways, Ayurveda and Yoga, Development Cooperation, Health and Pharma, Agriculture and Consular issues.

3. They reviewed cooperation in multilateral institutions and also exchanged views on various regional and global issues of common interest.

4. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Gainful Employment of Relatives of diplomats was concluded, signed by Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Ambassador of India to Argentina & Uruguay and Mr. Nicolas Albertoni, Uruguayan Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

5. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress in relations and agreed to explore new avenues of cooperation. It was agreed to hold the next round of FOCs at a mutually convenient date.

6. Secretary (East) Mr. Jaideep Mazumdar also called on Foreign Minister of Uruguay H.E. Omar Paganini.

- The sixth round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Uruguay took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, yesterday.
- Both sides reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and explored new areas of cooperation, including trade and investment, information and communication technology, railways, Ayurveda and yoga, development cooperation, health and pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and consular issues.
- They also discussed collaboration in multilateral institutions and exchanged views on regional and global matters of mutual interest. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar, while the Uruguayan side was headed by Vice Foreign Minister Nicolas Albertoni.