

# DAILY PT POINTERS

28 December, 2024



Indian Express-GS3(Economy)Page1

## CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE SURVEY

# Household spending on food rises in rural areas, shrinking gap with urban centres

Data show urban-rural gap dropped to 70% in 2023-24 from 84% in 2011-12

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

**REVERSING** A declining trend from over a decade, the share of food in monthly expenditure of households in rural as well as urban areas went up in 2023-24, according to the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24 fact sheet released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday.

This probably reflects the impact of higher food prices; given that the figures are in nominal terms, the share of food in the consumption basket of rural households went up to 47.04 per cent in 2023-24 from 46.38 per cent in 2022-23, while that for urban households inched higher to 39.68 per cent in 2023-24

EXPLAINED

E

What the data shows

A CLOSER look at the data reveals that the top 5 per cent of the rural and urban population saw a decrease in consumption spending in 2023-24, even as all other segments of the population, including the bottom 5 per cent, registered an increase in spending.

from 39.17 per cent in the previous year.

The HCES data also showed that the difference in average monthly consumption

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HCES 2023-24 Findings on Household Consumption Expenditure

**Increase in Food Expenditure:** The share of food in monthly expenditure rose in 2023-24, reflecting higher food prices. Rural households' food expenditure increased to 47.04% from 46.38%.

Urban households' food expenditure increased to 39.68% from 39.17%.

**Narrowing Urban-Rural Expenditure Gap:**

The difference in average monthly consumption expenditure between rural and urban households narrowed to 69.7% in 2023-24 from 71.2% in 2022-23.

Rural average monthly consumption spending per person rose to Rs 4,122 (9.3% increase).

Urban average monthly consumption expenditure per person rose to Rs 6,996 from Rs 6,459.

**CORPUS: RS 6,284 CRORE**

### PM CARES Fund received Rs 912 crore contribution in year after Covid pandemic

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

THE PRIME Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) received Rs 912 crore in contributions during the financial year 2022-23 as donations continued to pour in even after the Covid pandemic.

The PM CARES Funds received Rs 909.64 crore as voluntary contributions and Rs 2.57 crore as foreign contributions during 2022-23, the latest year for which audited accounts are available in the public domain.

In addition to donations of Rs 912 crore, the Fund also received Rs 170.38 crore as interest income, of which Rs 154 crore came from interest on regular accounts and Rs 16.07 crore from foreign contributions account. It also received about Rs 225 crore

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

(In Rs crore)

Year	Voluntary	Foreign
2019-20	3,076.85	0.39
2020-21	7,183.77	494.93
2021-22	1,896.76	40.12
2022-23	909.64	2.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,067.02</b>	<b>538.01</b>

Source: pmcares.gov.in

in form of refunds from various sources, including refund (Rs 202 crore) from procurement of 50,000 'Made in India' ventilators to government hospitals run by the Centre/States/UTs.

As far as payments and disbursements are concerned, the PM CARES Fund disbursed the total amount of Rs 439 crore during

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

The PM CARES Fund was registered as a Public Charitable Trust under the Registration Act, 1908 in New Delhi on March 27, 2020, three days after the lockdown in the country in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was set up "keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected."

- The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairman of the PM CARES Fund, while the Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister are ex-officio trustees of the Fund. The Prime Minister, as the chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the PM CARES Fund, has nominated Justice K T Thomas (retd.) and Kariya Munda as trustees.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961. Donations to the PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express-GS2(IR)-Page21



- NATO said it would boost its presence in the Baltic Sea after the suspected sabotage this week of an undersea power cable and four internet cables
- The Baltic Sea is an arm of the North Atlantic Ocean. It is bound by the Scandinavian Peninsula, the mainland of Northern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Europe, and the Danish islands. Surrounded by countries: Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden. It is connected to St. Petersburg by the Gulf of Finland. The Gulf of Riga is located between Estonia and Latvia.

## Indian Express-GS3(Economy)-Page23

### Current account deficit narrows to \$11.2 bn in Q2: RBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 27

THE COUNTRY'S current account deficit (CAD) moderated marginally to \$11.2 billion, or 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), in July-September 2024 quarter from \$11.3 billion, or 1.3 per cent of GDP, in the same period of the previous fiscal.

During April-September period (H1 FY2024-25), the current account deficit was \$21.4 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) as compared with \$20.2 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) in H1 of 2023-24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed on Friday.

The current account deficit is the difference between exports and imports of goods and services. It is a key indicator of the country's external sector.

In the second quarter of the current fiscal, merchandise trade deficit increased to \$75.3 billion from \$64.5 billion in the same period of FY2023-24.

Net services receipts rose to \$44.5 billion in Q2 FY2024-25 from \$39.9 billion a year ago. Services exports have increased on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis across major categories such as

computer services, business services, travel services and transportation services.

Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to \$31.9 billion in the second quarter of the current fiscal from \$28.1 billion in the year-ago period.

Net foreign direct investment recorded an outflow of \$2.2 billion in the reporting quarter as compared with an outflow of \$0.8 billion in the corresponding period of 2023-24.

Net inflows under foreign portfolio investment (FPI) surged to \$19.9 billion in Q2 2024-25 from US\$ 4.9 billion in Q2:2023-24. In April-September 2024, net FPI inflows stood at \$20.8 billion as compared to net inflows of \$20.7 billion a year ago.

Non-resident deposits (NRI deposits) recorded net inflows of \$6.2 billion in the second quarter of the current fiscal, higher than \$3.2 billion a year ago, the RBI data showed.

In Q2 FY2024-25, there was an accretion of \$18.6 billion to the foreign exchange reserves (on a balance of payment basis), higher than \$2.5 billion in Q2 FY 2023-24.

- The country's current account deficit (CAD) moderated marginally to \$11.2 billion, or 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), in July-September 2024 quarter from \$11.3 billion, or 1.3 per cent of GDP, in the same period of the previous fiscal.
- During April-September period (H1 FY2024-25), the current account deficit was \$21.4 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) as compared with \$20.2 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) in H1 of 2023-24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed on Friday.
- The current account deficit is the difference between exports and imports of goods and services. It is a key indicator of the country's external sector.

The Hindu-Governance (GSII)-Page10

## '22% rise in enrolment after smart classroom initiative'

The initiative has improved learning experiences and attendance of students besides resulting in improved comfort of teachers and preference for smart classroom facilities, says an IIM study

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Introduction of smart classrooms under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has led to a 22% increase in overall enrolment as per data reported by 19



structure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens – a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'smart' solutions.

As on November 2024, 91% of the projects under SCM have been completed, according to the Ministry.

Impact of Smart Classrooms Under the Smart Cities Mission  
**Increase in Enrolment:** Smart classrooms led to a 22% increase in overall enrolment between 2015-16 and 2023-24.

Development of Smart Classrooms: 71 cities developed 9,433 smart classrooms in 2,398 government schools. Highest number of projects in Karnataka (80), followed by Rajasthan (53).

West Bengal has the fewest, with just two projects.

**Smart Cities Mission (SCM):** Launched in June 2015 to provide core infrastructure and quality of life.

91% of projects completed as of November 2024.

**SAAR Initiative:** Platform launched in 2022 to document and research urban initiatives.

The Hindu-Science and Tech(GSIII)-Page10

## IIT-Bombay team makes needle-free 'shock syringe' for painless injections

**Purnima Sah**  
MUMBAI

In a welcome move for patients who have a fear of needles, a team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, has developed a needle-free "shock syringe".

The study, led by Professor Viren Menezes from



Priyanka Hankare, lead author of the study, said, "The shock syringe is designed to deliver medication rapidly... To minimise tissue damage and ensure consistent and precise drug delivery, the pressure in the shock syringe is continuously monitored and rigorous testing on tissue simulants (such as synthetic skin) helps to calibrate

Researchers at IIT Bombay, led by Professor Viren Menezes, developed a needle-free "shock syringe".

Study published in the Journal of Biomedical Materials and Devices.

Mechanism:

Utilizes high-energy pressure waves (shock waves) to pierce the skin instead of a needle.

Device consists of a micro shock tube with driver, driven, and drug holder sections.

Pressurized nitrogen gas creates a microjet of the drug that travels at high speed to penetrate the skin.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Commerce & Industry



Dr. Sandip Shah Appointed as the Chairperson of NABL-QCI

Posted On: 27 DEC 2024 5:15PM by PIB Delhi

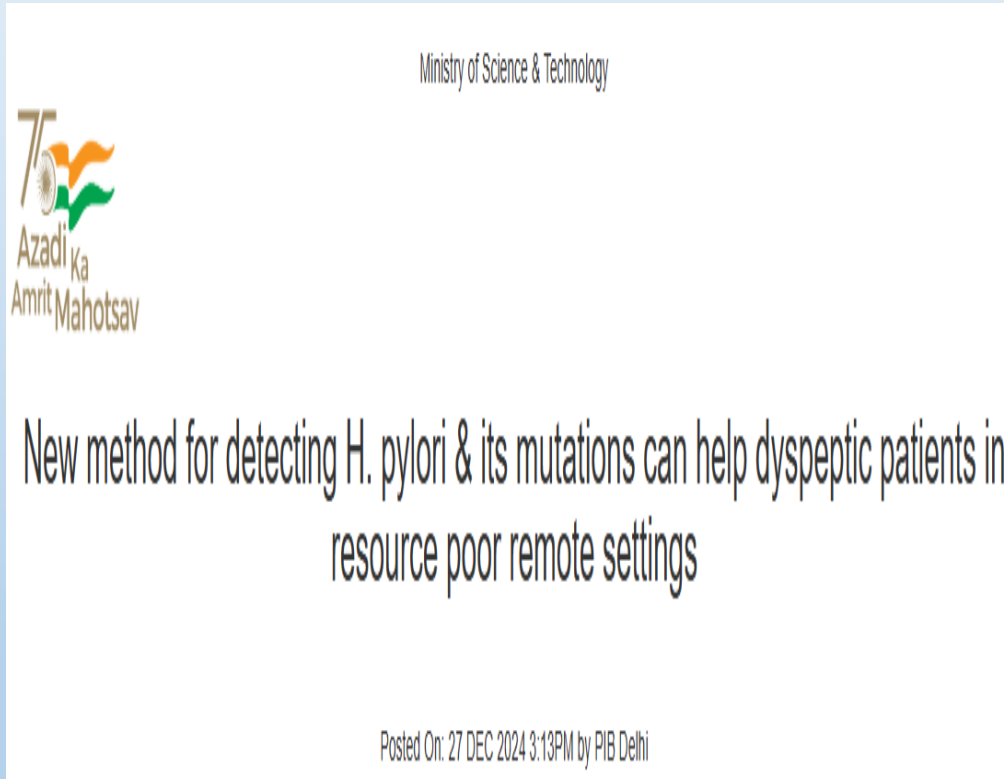
Dr. Sandip Shah, an eminent medical professional and visionary leader, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI). NABL works to improve the quality of testing and calibration services, ensuring trust in the products and services used by consumers, businesses, and regulators.

The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a premier autonomous body set up by the Government of India. QCI is responsible for creating a Quality Mindset and envisions to ensure quality across products and services that touch every citizen. As an independent and autonomous body, QCI creates a mechanism for independent third-party assessments of products, services, and processes, coordinating its activities through its constituent boards and divisions. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, serves as the nodal point for QCI.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB-Science and Tech(GSIII)



Researchers have found a way to develop FELUDA as a point-of-care diagnostic service at a minimal cost for detection of *H. pylori* and its mutations in dyspeptic patients from rural areas of India, with minimal or no access to diagnostic laboratories.

Infections with *H. pylori* affect over 43 percent of the world's population with a wide range of gastrointestinal disorders, including peptic ulcers, gastritis, dyspepsia and even gastric cancer.

Resistance to clarithromycin, primarily attributed to point mutations in the 23S ribosomal RNA coding gene of *H. pylori* poses a global threat to public health, by necessitating repeated diagnostic tests and use of multiple courses of different antibiotic combinations for eradication of the same.

- Therefore, integration of novel diagnostic strategies as cost-effective diagnostic tools to detect the presence of *H. pylori* in human samples, as well as the identification of the antibiotic susceptibility is crucial for its rapid eradication.